

STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF  
CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

State Capitol Auditorium

Montgomery, Alabama

February 4, 2012

\* \* \* \* \*

**TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS**

\* \* \* \* \*

Proceedings taken before Tracye  
Sadler Blackwell, Certified Court Reporter, ACCR  
No. 294, and Commissioner for the State of Alabama  
at Large, at the State Capitol Auditorium,  
Montgomery, Alabama, on February 4, 2012,  
commencing at approximately 9:00 a.m.

\* \* \* \* \*

1 BOARD MEMBERS:

- 2 Mr. Dan L. Moultrie, Chairman
- Mr. N. Gunter Guy, Jr., Commissioner
- 3 Mr. John McMillan
- Mr. Bill Hatley
- 4 Dr. Bob Shipp
- Mr. Austin Ainsworth
- 5 Dr. Warren Strickland
- Mr. Raymond Jones, Jr.
- 6 Mr. Grady Hartzog
- Dr. Gary Lemme
- 7 Mr. Joseph Dobbs, Jr.

8

9 \* \* \* \* \*

10

INDEX

11

12	CALL TO ORDER	3
13	INVOCATION	3
14	INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS	5
15	APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING	10
16	DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS	11
17	PUBLIC HEARING	22
18	DISTRICT REPORTS	164
19	NEW BUSINESS	189
20	Motion by Mr. Strickland - Approval of all DCNR Regulations Since Last Approval	203
21	OLD BUSINESS	206
22	SELECTION OF DATE AND LOCATION OF	215
23	MARCH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING	

1           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The February 4th, 2012,  
2                   meeting of the Conservation Advisory  
3                   Board will come to order. I would like  
4                   to welcome everyone to Montgomery,  
5                   Alabama. The board is glad that you are  
6                   able to be here today.

7                   I'm going to depart from our agenda  
8                   a little bit and call on an avid hunter  
9                   and fisherman in the state and a very  
10                  dear friend. And I think all of you  
11                  know him very well. But for the  
12                  invocation I would like to call to the  
13                  podium Mr. Bill "Bubba" Bussey. Bill.

14         MR. BUSSEY: Thank you, sir. Could we stand,  
15                  take our hats off. Would that be all  
16                  right?

17                  Y'all pray with me, please.

18                  Heavenly Father, we humble ourselves  
19                  before your presence today, and we ask  
20                  that you forgive us of our many  
21                  shortcomings. Father, we thank you for  
22                  our country and our state and the  
23                  freedoms that we have and the rights and

1           privileges you have granted to us.

2           Father, we just ask that you  
3           continue to bless our nation and our  
4           state. And, Father, we ask for the  
5           guidance of these elected officials and  
6           these commissions as they move forward  
7           in the important rules of enjoying our  
8           natural resources.

9           Father, we know that the creation is  
10          a gift that you meant for us and that we  
11          were to subdue it and to manage it in a  
12          way that was appropriate to you.

13          Father, we ask that you open the minds  
14          and hearts and you give us the guidance  
15          to do that correctly in a way that will  
16          be pleasing to you. In the name of your  
17          son, Jesus, we pray. Amen.

18          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Bill, thank you very  
19          much. And everybody thinks Rick gives  
20          the best prayer. We know now.

21          Mr. Hatley, I think there's  
22          something you wanted to add during the  
23          invocation time.

1 MR. HATLEY: Yes, Commissioner -- I mean,  
2 Chairman.

3 Last night in Mobile, Alabama, we  
4 had a police officer who was killed in  
5 the line of duty, another who was  
6 wounded. I would like for us to  
7 remember their families in prayer. And,  
8 also, a friend of this board and of the  
9 Conservation Department, Mr. Pete  
10 Barber, who is also from south Alabama,  
11 is in serious condition.

12 So as you go home and tonight as you  
13 offer your prayers, please consider both  
14 of these families as time goes forward.  
15 Thank you very much.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

17 For the next order of business, I  
18 would like to have the introduction of  
19 the board members.

20 First I'm going to introduce our  
21 commissioner, Mr. Gunter Guy. Gunter.

22 Secondly, I'd introduce our  
23 assistant commissioner, Mr. Curtis

1 Jones. Curtis.

2 Next I'd like to introduce Alabama's  
3 agriculture commissioner, Mr. John  
4 McMillan. John.

5 MR. McMILLAN: Good morning.

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Our other ex-officio  
7 member here today is Dr. Gary Lemme from  
8 the Alabama Extension Service. He  
9 replaces longtime board member  
10 Dr. Gaines Smith who is retiring.

11 Dr. Lemme becomes the third director  
12 of the Alabama Cooperative Extension  
13 Office. Dr. Lemme comes to the Alabama  
14 Extension from South Dakota State  
15 University where he has been most  
16 recently a professor in the Department  
17 of Plant Science. A soil scientist by  
18 training, he is also the former dean of  
19 the College of Agriculture and  
20 Biological Sciences. He holds both  
21 bachelor's and master's degrees from  
22 South Dakota State. He completed his  
23 doctoral work at the University of

1 Nebraska.

2 In addition to his tenure at South  
3 Dakota University, Dr. Lemme has held a  
4 variety of leadership positions at  
5 several land grant institutions,  
6 including Michigan State, the University  
7 of Minnesota -- and I knew when I read  
8 this last one he was our kind of guy --  
9 at the University of Hawaii. So if  
10 y'all would welcome Dr. Lemme.

11 Next I'll start at the end with  
12 Mr. Dobbs. And I'd like for the  
13 district members of the board to give  
14 their name and what district they  
15 represent.

16 Mr. Dobbs.

17 MR. DOBBS: Joey Dobbs, 6th Congressional  
18 District.

19 MR. HARTZOG: Grady Hartzog, the 2nd  
20 Congressional District.

21 MR. JONES: Raymond Jones, 5th Congressional  
22 District.

23 DR. STRICKLAND: Warren Strickland, 5th

1           Congressional District.

2           MR. AINSWORTH: Austin Ainsworth, 4th

3           Congressional District.

4           DR. SHIPP: Bob Shipp, 1st Congressional

5           District.

6           MR. HATLEY: Bill Hatley, 1st Congressional

7           District.

8           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: And then that has the

9           board.

10                   I would, also, at this time like to  
11                   give special recognition to outgoing  
12                   board member George Harbin who couldn't  
13                   be here today because of health reasons,  
14                   also special recognition -- Dr. Smith.  
15                   Are you here, Dr. Smith? Could you come  
16                   up?

17                   Dr. Gaines Smith, who's retiring,  
18                   and a guy from the University of Hawaii  
19                   replacing him.

20                   And, Commissioner, if you'd like to  
21                   present Dr. Smith from the board and all  
22                   game and fish for your service.

23           COMMISSIONER GUY: We want to thank you so

1           much for your service over all these  
2           years, and we wish you the best of luck  
3           in the future. Thank you for what  
4           you've done for us.

5           DR. SMITH: Thank you. You know, we in our  
6           state are blessed with just an  
7           unbelievable rich set of resources --  
8           natural resources that we all enjoy on a  
9           day-to-day basis out here. And the  
10          activities of the three groups that are  
11          represented here today make that  
12          possible and to continue for the many,  
13          many future generations. The board,  
14          your advice, the professional managers  
15          we've got down here and all of -- and I  
16          put myself as a user with you guys and  
17          ladies out here now. That's the process  
18          that makes it all work and carries it  
19          forward. It's my privilege to have been  
20          a part of it for the last 20 or so  
21          years. Thank you, both Commissioner and  
22          Mr. Chairman.

23          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Gaines. Thank

1           you, Gaines.

2           Also, during this time I'd like to  
3           give recognition again to the two new  
4           board members, Dr. Gary Lemme and  
5           replacing George Harbin is Mr. Austin  
6           Ainsworth, who comes with a very good  
7           pedigree of the game and fish industry  
8           himself. So, Austin, we're glad to have  
9           you on the board.

10           Thank you today for all board  
11           members in attendance.

12           The next order of business is the  
13           approval of the March 12th, 2011, and  
14           the May 14th, 2011, minutes. The  
15           minutes -- the March meeting minutes are  
16           due to be approved, also, today because  
17           of incomplete minutes in some of the  
18           board members' packets for the May  
19           meeting.

20           Are there any changes to the  
21           minutes?

22                           (No response.)

23           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If not, the minutes stand

1 approved as read.

2 The next order of business is the  
3 DCNR departmental reports. I'd like to  
4 call on Commissioner Guy to introduce  
5 each department. Commissioner Guy.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: At this time I'm going to  
7 call on Fred Harders to give a report  
8 for Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries.  
9 Fred is our acting director at this time  
10 with our former director having retired,  
11 Corky Pugh. So he's doing a fine job.  
12 And at this time, Fred, if you would  
13 give us your report.

14 MR. HARDERS: Good morning.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Good morning.

16 MR. HARDERS: As Commissioner mentioned, Corky  
17 Pugh, director, retired. In your packet  
18 you have our report which goes into  
19 detail.

20 We filled a few vacancies with  
21 conservation officers in Barbour,  
22 Marengo, Monroe, and Tuscaloosa County.  
23 One important thing I'd like to point

1 out is the devastating tornadoes we had  
2 in April. Our folks responded and, as  
3 always, did a wonderful job.

4 There's a lot of information in the  
5 report. I don't want to take up a lot  
6 of time. So, if you would, if you have  
7 any questions about this, you can ask  
8 me. Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Fred.

10 Is Chris Blankenship -- okay.

11 Chris, Marine Resources director.

12 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, Commissioner.

13 All of y'all have been provided a  
14 packet that had a lot of detailed  
15 information about the activities of the  
16 Marine Resources Division this past  
17 year, but I do want to take an  
18 opportunity just to mention a couple of  
19 quick things.

20 We had some regulations that were  
21 changed in legislation in the last  
22 couple of years that dealt with  
23 oysters. And we had a successful small

1 oyster season this year. Everything  
2 looks great for the future, and I  
3 appreciate all the work that you've done  
4 with the regulations to make that  
5 happen. In this next upcoming year and  
6 years future we should have a very good  
7 oyster harvest, you know, thanks to  
8 these management plans.

9 The commercial fisheries are back  
10 this year a little bit, and more people  
11 are back fishing. And same with the  
12 recreational fisheries. We sold more  
13 fishing licenses this year than we've  
14 ever sold in our time that we've worked  
15 here. And a lot of people that because  
16 of the oil spill had missed fishing, I  
17 think, came back this year in droves.  
18 And so it's been very good for the  
19 economy down there with the tourism and  
20 everything else. I just wanted -- any  
21 other information that -- any questions  
22 about any stuff in the packet, I'll be  
23 here and be glad to answer. Thank you.

1           COMMISSIONER GUY: We have a new Marine Police  
2           director, Steve Thompson, who, I think,  
3           came in July of last year. Steve is  
4           doing an outstanding job for us, and we  
5           appreciate your service as our Marine  
6           Police director.

7           MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Commissioner, Board  
8           Members.

9                     Like the Commissioner said, I'm the  
10           new guy in conservation, and I'm having  
11           a wonderful time. It's been an  
12           eye-opening experience. And I have the  
13           honor and privilege of working with some  
14           fantastic individuals -- not only Marine  
15           Police, but all the Conservation  
16           divisions as well. I've made a lot of  
17           good friends.

18                    First of all, since coming to the  
19           Marine Police Division -- I retired as  
20           deputy chief of police in Montgomery --  
21           here in Montgomery. So I'm home here in  
22           Montgomery. I just want to let you know  
23           we've had about four retirements, and we

1           currently have about four or five  
2           recruits in our Marine Police academy at  
3           this time to try and fill those  
4           vacancies.

5           We have about 59 sworn officers  
6           throughout the state of Alabama, and we  
7           focus on recreational and boater safety  
8           enforcement. And through enforcement  
9           and education of our youth, which is  
10          extremely important, I'm happy to say in  
11          the 2011 boating season our fatalities  
12          were significantly down and serious  
13          accidents. So I'm extremely pleased  
14          with that and continue to move forward  
15          in that direction of making sure  
16          everybody is safe on the water, having a  
17          good time, and they can all go home at  
18          the end of the day.

19          Like I said, it's an honor and  
20          privilege to serve as your new director  
21          of the Marine Police. And thank you.

22          I'll just keep it short.

23          COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you. Not a problem.

1           Parks. Mark -- Tim Wishum, who is,  
2           also, our acting -- one of our acting  
3           directors of Parks with the retirement  
4           of Mark Easterwood who retired in  
5           January.

6           MR. WISHUM: Thank you. I appreciate the  
7           opportunity to address the board.

8           In Parks we've had a pretty good  
9           year. We gave y'all our annual report  
10          which had a lot of our accomplishments  
11          and some problems that we've had. We  
12          didn't have all our financial figures  
13          in, but it's sort of a good news/bad  
14          news, you know, kind of year.

15          At Gulf State Park we've had a very  
16          good year at the pier and the  
17          campground. Our cabins have done really  
18          well.

19          At Guntersville State Park, you  
20          know, we were devastated by the tornado  
21          on April 27th, and we lost part of our  
22          hotel roof and a couple of cabins, and  
23          our campground was severely damaged.

1 But we have -- we have -- we have done  
2 the final contract on the campground,  
3 and there should be a few more minor  
4 ones.

5 But our goal is to have all our  
6 facilities at Guntersville back open by  
7 Memorial Day. And it's going to be a  
8 struggle, but I think it's going to be  
9 pretty possible. And what we like to  
10 tell people is, well, you know, there's  
11 a lot of trees that are gone, but  
12 there's a good view of Lake  
13 Guntersville.

14 So other than that, you know, our  
15 visitation was down some because of the  
16 economy, but we continue to try to, you  
17 know, provide good quality recreational  
18 facilities and try to keep our costs as  
19 low as possible, you know, for the  
20 public. If there's any questions.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, sir.

22 Ms. Patti Powell with Lands.

23 MS. POWELL: Thank you, Commissioner and

1 Board. I'll keep my report very brief  
2 also. I know you've got a report from  
3 us in the packet. Our activities over  
4 the last year were primarily our usual  
5 and routine duties. I would like to  
6 highlight two activities.

7 One is our ongoing work  
8 administering the Forever Wild land  
9 acquisition program. Over the last year  
10 we added 5,000 acres spanning five  
11 counties to that program providing the  
12 public with additional opportunities for  
13 recreational activities, hunting, and  
14 other habitat management programs. We  
15 continue to be very proud to be  
16 associated with that program and able to  
17 help with the work of that board in  
18 administering that program.

19 Secondly, I would also note, because  
20 it's been so time-consuming over the  
21 last year, we continue our activities  
22 supporting the Commissioner in his  
23 duties as lead trustee for the State of

1 Alabama for the Natural Resource Damage  
2 Assessment process related to the BP oil  
3 spill. That's the process under the Oil  
4 Pollution Act by which we are  
5 responsible on behalf of the public and  
6 the state for recovering the public's  
7 loss of use and damage -- restoring  
8 damage to the state's natural resources  
9 as a result of the oil spill. That has  
10 been a time-consuming function, and we  
11 are continuing to work with that until  
12 we get those resources and those damages  
13 restored.

14 And any questions anyone has, let me  
15 know. But other than that, I'll just  
16 defer to the information we have in your  
17 packet. Thank you. Thank you,  
18 Commissioner.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: If I just -- Dan, may I  
20 make a little commentary.

21 You know, having now been in this  
22 position for a year, I can unequivocally  
23 say that the public needs to be aware

1           that we have great leadership through  
2           these division directors. They do a  
3           fine job of protecting the resources and  
4           running the business of the Conservation  
5           Department. And as who we serve, I can  
6           assure you, you're in good hands with  
7           the people that just spoke and the  
8           people that work for them. I'm very  
9           proud of what they do. They work hard.  
10          They work long hours. They work -- you  
11          know, whatever needs to be done, when I  
12          call on them, they do it. And we try  
13          our best to answer your needs as best we  
14          can.

15                 And as far as the board is  
16          concerned, I know you call on them from  
17          time to time, and hopefully y'all get  
18          what you need. I think you do. Anytime  
19          y'all need, you know, information about  
20          a particular area that relates to, you  
21          know, what they do, please feel free to  
22          call them. I know they will try to  
23          answer your questions and get the

1 information to you as quickly as  
2 possible.

3 But, in particular, Dan, there was a  
4 mention, of course, by Fred about the  
5 devastating tornadoes back in April.  
6 And we all know what a -- you know, how  
7 greatly that affected the state and many  
8 of our citizens in this state which we  
9 continue to pray for and work for every  
10 day. But all of our divisions, as Fred  
11 Harders mentioned, were heavily involved  
12 in that effort to assist the people in  
13 the state of Alabama.

14 And I think that those that were  
15 affected know that we were there trying  
16 to help out, trying to do that. And we  
17 spent a lot of time doing that. But it  
18 was rewarding work, and hopefully we're  
19 going to continue to get the state back  
20 on track. As a result of that, the  
21 Governor is working real hard to do  
22 that, and we'll continue to do what we  
23 can. So we appreciate everybody's

1 support in that regard.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Absolutely great. Thank  
3 you, Commissioner Guy, and thank you all  
4 the DCNR departments.

5 The next order of business is the  
6 public hearing. When your name is  
7 called, please go to the microphone and  
8 give your name and subject you wish to  
9 speak on. I'll remind you again that  
10 only you may speak at the time you are  
11 called and that any interference will  
12 not be tolerated.

13 I'll take this time again at the  
14 first of each year. The Conservation  
15 Advisory Board has posted standing  
16 rules. I'll read these real quickly.

17 After registering, the person  
18 wishing to speak should go to the  
19 designated microphone when called.  
20 After being recognized by the Chair, the  
21 person should give his/her name, city,  
22 and county. The time to speak is  
23 limited strictly to three minutes.

1           Where several persons wish to speak  
2           on the same subject, the group should  
3           choose one speaker to represent them.  
4           The Chair may choose or not choose to  
5           call on each person in that group or  
6           from that group to speak for additional  
7           information. Questions of debate from  
8           Advisory Board members shall be limited  
9           to ten minutes. No person shall -- may  
10          speak twice until all registered  
11          speakers have spoken.

12           Okay. First we'll have Ms. Chiquita  
13          Baker.

14           Please speak into the microphone  
15          when called.

16          MS. BAKER: I am Chiquita Baker from Franklin  
17          County. And you all talked about the  
18          tornado on April 27th, and the tornado  
19          ripped through the heart of my little  
20          community. And so it was within hours  
21          we had law enforcement people there.

22           And we -- of course, we had  
23          sightseers and looters and all kinds of

1           problems. My son lost his house, and he  
2           had things taken from his property. But  
3           within a few hours the law enforcement  
4           people were there. The biologists were  
5           there. And we had a Marine Police  
6           command post set up in our community.  
7           And they stopped people from coming into  
8           our neighborhood who shouldn't have been  
9           there. And they did a yeoman's job.  
10          And I just wanted the board to be aware  
11          of how thankful the community is to have  
12          had the people in the Conservation  
13          Department helping us. It was  
14          wonderful.

15                 And as an avid hunter, I have one  
16          more thing I want to say. This is the  
17          WMA schedule. And this is -- in the  
18          past you've always had a spreadsheet  
19          that has the dates of the hunts across  
20          the top and you have the WMAs across the  
21          side. And you can look at a date and  
22          pick out what WMAs have hunts on that  
23          certain day. Well, this year it was

1 taken out of the brochure.

2 So if I may ask -- and we like to  
3 hunt -- we like to look at the day and  
4 see what WMA we want to go to on that  
5 day. So if it's at all possible, we  
6 would like to have that information put  
7 back in the brochure. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Ms. Baker.

9 The next speaker will be Rusty  
10 Morrow.

11 MR. MORROW: Thank you. I appreciate the time  
12 today, Mr. Moultrie, Commissioner,  
13 Distinguished Board. My name is Rusty  
14 Morrow. I'm executive director of the  
15 Alabama Conservation Enforcement  
16 Officers Association. I'm a retired  
17 conservation officer from Lowndes  
18 County, spent 25 years over there.

19 I would like the board to consider a  
20 little extra time today. I had another  
21 guy -- a supervisor out of District 1  
22 who could not be here today. But I'm  
23 here to recognize three individuals.

1           The first one set on this board. He  
2           passed away last year, late in the  
3           year. His name was Mr. Jimmy Hinton,  
4           Sr. I met with his family at the  
5           Buckmasters American Deer Foundation  
6           Life Hunt on January the 11th and  
7           told -- and over the past six years  
8           since our Conservation Enforcement  
9           Officers Association has been involved  
10          with the Buckmasters American Deer  
11          Foundation Life Hunt at Sedgefield  
12          Plantation, I've gotten to know  
13          Mr. Jimmy Hinton. And I expressed to  
14          his family that I would like to  
15          recognize Mr. Hinton at this Advisory  
16          Board meeting.

17                He served on this panel for 19  
18                years. Of the 19 years, he was the  
19                chairman of the board for like 13 or 14  
20                years. He served under five governors.  
21                He was a true statesman. He believed in  
22                the wildlife resource of Alabama. He  
23                was a great gentleman. He -- he worked

1           hard on the same -- in the same seats  
2           that you work -- you're working on  
3           today. A lot of his laws -- a lot of  
4           his regulations, seasons, bag limits are  
5           still in effect from the time that he  
6           served on this board.

7           He opens his plantation up to the  
8           Life Hunt for the past 19 years for  
9           handicapped hunters, terminally ill kids  
10          and whatnot to come in and hunt on his  
11          plantation. They make it all open to  
12          them. And it's an unbelievable event.  
13          It's a humbling event. And we  
14          appreciate what the Hinton family has  
15          done. And the loss of Mr. Hinton is  
16          truly something that will be thought  
17          about for a long time. And just in my  
18          short time of knowing him, he -- he was  
19          a true gentleman and believed in the  
20          wildlife resource of this state. We'll  
21          miss him.

22          The second individual I want to  
23          recognize is our officer of the year,

1 Lieutenant Mike Nichols. His supervisor  
2 couldn't be here today, Captain Johnny  
3 Johnson out of District 1. But I had  
4 the fortune of working with Mike Nichols  
5 over a period of years. He is a -- and  
6 since we've talked about the  
7 hurricane -- tornado relief, Mike was  
8 stationed in Franklin County. Being a  
9 lieutenant, he was a first responder to  
10 the tornado relief where there was 26, I  
11 believe, deaths in that county, in north  
12 Franklin County and Phil Campbell  
13 alone.

14 Mike is certainly not limited to  
15 that particular event. He is a true  
16 leader, and he's certainly qualified for  
17 our officer of the year. But because of  
18 his expertise, search and rescue  
19 training that the department has given  
20 him, his training as a medic in the  
21 military, he was able to go into that  
22 community, set up -- set up control  
23 stations and distribute whatever those

1 people up there needed. And it was  
2 devastating.

3 And that wasn't the only reason he  
4 was our conservation officer of the  
5 year, but he -- he did take a major  
6 part. He stayed up there for over a  
7 month helping those people in a command  
8 post and things like this. So we  
9 recognize today Lieutenant Mike Nichols  
10 from District 1.

11 The other individual I would like to  
12 recognize is another conservation  
13 officer, a hero. And we have many  
14 heroes, and sometimes we're  
15 overlooked -- our heroes in our  
16 department are overlooked. But Joe  
17 Lindsey was a true hero. He's been  
18 recognized in several different  
19 committees and legislative.

20 But Joe, on two different occasions,  
21 has been considered a mystery man. He  
22 goes in sometimes and -- because -- in  
23 Madison County he pulled a young

1 juvenile from a burning airplane where  
2 his parents were killed, and he was a  
3 first responder there. And after he did  
4 first aid, got the kid away from the  
5 plane, he kind of disappeared. And  
6 so -- and on another incident in 2008 he  
7 pulled a young handicapped girl from a  
8 burning van. And once the paramedics  
9 got there, he kind of disappeared  
10 again.

11 But Joe Lindsey from District 1 is  
12 also a hero. And we recognized him last  
13 year, and he's been recognized a lot for  
14 his heroism. We have heroes in our  
15 ranks, and oftentimes they go  
16 unnoticed.

17 But we had a lot of heroes during  
18 Katrina. We had heroes during the  
19 tornado devastation. And we -- we do  
20 the best -- the best job that anybody  
21 can do, and we're oftentimes  
22 overlooked.

23 So thank you for your time. We

1 appreciate you. Glad to see Mr. Hatley  
2 back. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Morrow.

4 Our next speaker will be Mr. Avery  
5 Bates.

6 We're sorry to be so rushed today,  
7 but we have a long list today, guys and  
8 ladies.

9 MR. BATES: I would say I'm just too big, but  
10 I'm four foot too short.

11 My name is Avery Bates. I'm  
12 vice-president of Organized Seafood  
13 Association. We've had many trials and  
14 tribulations in our business over the  
15 years.

16 First of all, I want to thank the  
17 board last year for not taking some of  
18 our liberties away from us. You know,  
19 our forefathers fought for our liberties  
20 under our constitution and our state  
21 constitution. One liberty that tried to  
22 be taken away that y'all preserved and  
23 didn't allow it was gamefish status in

1 three species of fish. One of them was  
2 Spanish mackerel, sheepshead, and  
3 pompano. And this property that we take  
4 from the waters belongs to everybody in  
5 this state. In fact -- what did we see,  
6 Chauncey -- 700-and-something firemen  
7 that worked in many rescues we fed.  
8 Many different people -- we fed  
9 Buckmasters, 400-and-something people.  
10 We fed the tornado victims for two  
11 weeks. We fed another 300 in this  
12 tornado disaster my son was in.

13 We feed people with the products  
14 from the sea. We're farmers of the  
15 sea. Thank God for our constitution. I  
16 know everybody on this board -- I don't  
17 think (inaudible) -- but we have our  
18 liberties to defend. Many of our people  
19 on this board defended them last year.  
20 And we want to keep y'all defending our  
21 liberties to take our fish, all  
22 species. It's according to Law  
23 9-2-80.

1 All saltwater fish belong to all the  
2 people of the state, not just one user  
3 group. We don't want somebody to try to  
4 exercise, on Article 1, Section 23, the  
5 eminent domain on one particular  
6 species. It belongs to everybody. Let  
7 us keep fishing. Let us keep  
8 oystering. Let us keep producing what  
9 everybody enjoys, good healthy seafood.

10 Keep in mind, now, we have -- as  
11 according to the Sea Grant group, we  
12 have 9,750 people who work in our  
13 commercial seafood industry, 4,719  
14 recreational who work in our seafood  
15 industry. This is according to Governor  
16 Bentley, who is a fine Christian  
17 governor.

18 And I want to lay one thing to our  
19 credit of the Conservation Department.  
20 We have a man right here, that's a fine  
21 Christian man, who's head over our  
22 seafood director, Chris Blankenship,  
23 that has stood up for us in the past and

1           just speaks the truth as far as  
2           qualities of stock. And there's also  
3           the new commissioner. He believes in a  
4           good healthy resource and a good healthy  
5           department defending that resource and  
6           defending our products for everybody.  
7           Thank you, Commissioner Guy, for all you  
8           do for us. I know it's a big  
9           responsibility being a trustee.

10                   And we want our oyster reefs -- like  
11           Mississippi wants theirs and Louisiana  
12           wants theirs, we want them built back.  
13           30,000 sacks of oysters come out of  
14           Heron Bay in just a very few weeks.

15           MS. JONES: Mr. Bates --

16           MR. BATES: Some of the best oysters in the  
17           country.

18           MS. JONES: Mr. Bates, that's time.

19           MR. BATES: Thank you.

20                   Do you have any questions? I'll be  
21           willing to answer them. We've got many  
22           other reports here. Some of the board  
23           asked me some reports on stats. I have

1           them by the bunches.

2           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Bates, we certainly  
3           appreciate your time today. Thank you.

4           MR. BATES: Thank you, Mr. Moultrie.

5           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next speaker is  
6           Sidney Schwartz.

7                       While we're waiting on the speaker,  
8           I'd like to remind the board, all the  
9           changes to the DCNR regs, regulations,  
10          limits, et cetera, are in your packets.  
11          That will be reviewed and voted on a  
12          motion for the next meeting. Please  
13          review those.

14                      Mr. Schwartz.

15          MR. SCHWARTZ: Sidney Schwartz. Mobile  
16          County. I live in Mobile city. My  
17          topic is shrimp season openings.

18                      I've been shrimping since I was a  
19          little kid. Learned from my  
20          grandfather, my father. I did it. My  
21          son does it. My grandson does it. We  
22          have four generations shrimping right  
23          now on my boat.

1           In the past 20 years probably three  
2 times it's happened. The season was  
3 opened quick. People was left out. I  
4 think we need 72 hours notice before  
5 shrimp season is opened.

6           I expressed this to Mr. Chris  
7 Blankenship. And I think he's a good  
8 man for the job. That was the right  
9 decision. I endorse it. And I  
10 understand that last year's opening, it  
11 had to be done because of the floods,  
12 another opening for the oil spill. You  
13 know, natural disasters, that's  
14 understandable. But in other cases, we  
15 need 72 hours notice so some of the  
16 fishermen isn't left out.

17           I was left out last year. I missed  
18 quite a bit of money because I couldn't  
19 go to the season. I wasn't ready for  
20 it. So if y'all would take that into  
21 consideration, I'd appreciate it.

22           Any questions?

23           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I have one question,

1           Mr. Schwartz.

2           MR. SCHWARTZ: Yes.

3           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I don't know if you've  
4                   noticed, but the hunter orange that goes  
5                   into play in game and fish -- and I see  
6                   your hat. I have a different hat. If  
7                   you need to wear that, then we'll offer  
8                   you that. But I guess we need to give  
9                   kudos to your university. But thank you  
10                  so much, but notice the hunter orange.  
11                  It goes well with blue.

12          MR. SCHWARTZ: Oh, okay. I'll take that into  
13                  consideration.

14          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Schwartz.

15          MR. SCHWARTZ: Thank you.

16          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next speaker is  
17                  Jeb Brantley. Is Mr. Brantley present?

18                  Mr. Brantley.

19          MR. BRANTLEY: My name is Jeb Brantley. I'm  
20                  from Montgomery County. I live in the  
21                  city of Montgomery. The topic I'm  
22                  bringing up today is an issue we've  
23                  actually been having at the Gulf State

1 Pier in Gulf Shores. We have an issue  
2 right now with the disposal of the  
3 carcasses of the fish caught and  
4 cleaning on site.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the mic,  
6 please, Mr. Brantley.

7 MR. BRANTLEY: We're having an issue with the  
8 disposal of the carcasses of the fish  
9 being caught and cleaned on site. And  
10 the issue I see with it is we're not  
11 allowed to dispose of the fish on site  
12 and we're also not allowed to dispose of  
13 them within the receptacles provided to  
14 us at the facility. We've actually been  
15 told by the park director down there  
16 that we are to dispose of the remains of  
17 the fish in the trash cans provided to  
18 us.

19 Well, the way I see it is, is what  
20 you're going to end up with is a pier  
21 that is there for everybody's enjoyment  
22 that smells like somebody has dumped a  
23 dead body on it. I've left fish in my

1 garbage can down there before, and it's  
2 not a nice smell after a few hours. But  
3 I can only imagine what it's going to  
4 smell like after a few days, because  
5 there's limited resources on the people  
6 that actually work down there and who  
7 provide services to empty the garbage  
8 cans. They sometimes can only get to  
9 them once every other day.

10 Well, I can see if you get a good  
11 strong north wind or a good strong south  
12 wind and everybody who's in the parking  
13 lot wanting to walk out on the pier and  
14 they smell the stench coming from the  
15 garbage cans. They're not going to want  
16 to walk out on the pier. They're not  
17 going to want to enjoy the facilities.

18 And the other thing I see is, is  
19 that it provides -- it actually hinders  
20 people coming down and fishing because  
21 they have to clean the fish at where  
22 they're staying. And a lot of people  
23 don't have places to clean. If they

1           stay at hotels and motels, they're not  
2           provided with freezers or cleaning  
3           stations at those particular locations  
4           to process their own fish and to store  
5           it. And so what you end up with is an  
6           issue there because you're going to have  
7           garbage cans and dumpsters all over the  
8           city that smell like death.

9           That's all I have to cover on the  
10          topic, and that's my view of it.

11         CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let me interrupt just a  
12          minute. We've got Tim Wishum. We've  
13          been working on that.

14                 Tim, would you like to comment on  
15          that?

16         MR. WISHUM: Well, it's an ongoing-type  
17          problem.

18         CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Come up to the microphone  
19          if you can.

20         MR. WISHUM: We've been working, you know,  
21          with our engineering section, for one  
22          thing, to move our fish-cleaning  
23          stations to the parking lot for the pier

1 customers and for anyone else in Gulf  
2 Shores that, you know, wishes to clean  
3 fish. And we're trying to, you know, do  
4 that so that we can dispose of the fish  
5 and then, if possible, find someone to  
6 recycle, you know.

7 MR. BRANTLEY: Well, with the recycling issue  
8 is that if you've ever been to any of  
9 the marinas, Zeke's or Sportman's, down  
10 there and you've been there on a good  
11 warm summer day, what you're going to  
12 end up with is a cesspool basically.  
13 The marina -- when you go down to Zeke's  
14 in July, you can't go within 30 feet of  
15 the dumpster down there. It absolutely  
16 reeks. And it's right next to a  
17 restaurant. I mean, at the pier  
18 that's -- that's --

19 MR. WISHUM: Well, an odor problem, you know,  
20 we've been addressing in our campground,  
21 which is a 500-site campground. And if  
22 you pull in there, there's a  
23 fish-cleaning station and there's

1           anywhere from eight to 12 dumpsters.  
2           It's something if you stay on top of it  
3           and you keep them dumped and you keep  
4           them sprayed.

5           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Brantley.  
6           Commissioner.

7           COMMISSIONER GUY: I was just going to say, I  
8           think the thing that we wanted you to  
9           know was we're working on that.

10          MR. WISHUM: We're working on that.

11          COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Thank you, Tim.

12                   And we're trying to address that.  
13           You know, when the pier was built, there  
14           was a plan in place. As many plans  
15           sometimes don't work, it didn't work.  
16           Had difficulty with people misusing or  
17           abusing what we had. So now we're  
18           having to try to figure out something  
19           else to do. We're keenly aware of  
20           that. And I know that you had a  
21           comment.

22          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Is this Dr. Shipp or  
23          Mr. Hatley?

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Hatley.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hatley.

3 MR. HATLEY: I had talked with Jim Egbert. I  
4 think Jim is here today. And I had also  
5 talked with staff in reference to this.  
6 This was going to be part of my report  
7 today.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good.

9 MR. HATLEY: And I had assured Jim and I'm  
10 assuring you that our staff is going to  
11 rectify this problem at some point. And  
12 as Commissioner said, we are working on  
13 it.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Brantley, thank you  
15 very much.

16 MR. BRANTLEY: Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker will be  
18 Glen Bryant.

19 MR. BRYANT: My name is Glen Bryant. I'm here  
20 representing Pete Barber with the  
21 Alabama Seafood Association.

22 As you heard, he's very, very sick,  
23 very critical. If there is any

1 gillnet-related regulations, I would ask  
2 that they be tabled till my people can  
3 regroup and maybe Pete gets better.  
4 That's all I've got to say.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much,  
6 Mr. Bryant.

7 The next speaker will be Zack  
8 Carter.

9 MR. CARTER: Hello, Mr. Chairman. I think I'm  
10 wearing the correct colors on my hat.

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: You are absolutely  
12 appropriate.

13 MR. CARTER: Good morning. My name is Zack  
14 Carter, and I'm an interim board member  
15 of the newly formed Alabama Fisheries  
16 Cooperative in Coden, Alabama. And I  
17 would like to -- there's a couple of  
18 things that I learned at a public  
19 meeting two days ago in Bayou La Batre  
20 that I'm concerned about.

21 I would like to ask the Commissioner  
22 and Doctor, too, if they could  
23 reconsider putting the projects of

1 restoring the oyster reefs back into  
2 round one of the NRDA funding. And, I  
3 mean, we've had conversations with Patti  
4 and others, and we've been reassured  
5 that probably next round that the  
6 restoration projects will be included.  
7 But the problem is that -- you know, the  
8 point was raised that Louisiana and  
9 Mississippi wants theirs. Well, they  
10 got theirs. And that's my  
11 understanding, that they are spending  
12 millions to restore their oyster reefs.  
13 And so we will be a year behind. And  
14 Alabama oyster catchers, whenever they  
15 have to go to Louisiana or Mississippi,  
16 they catch hell.

17 So I'm hoping that maybe we could  
18 meet and try to understand exactly what  
19 is the process, why, you know, these  
20 projects were not included in the first  
21 round. And so I'll stop there, and then  
22 maybe we can get some explanation.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Carter.

1 Commissioner.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: The NRDA process is very  
3 complicated. It's very technical. And  
4 I assure you that we look at all the  
5 projects. And I've talked to a number  
6 of people about this, and we've had  
7 public hearings down in Mobile and Gulf  
8 Shores about our projects. We're very  
9 cognizant of the interest in the oyster  
10 reefs. And that's about all I can say  
11 at this time. Thank you for your  
12 comments though.

13 MR. CARTER: Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Carter.

15 The next speaker will be Jim Egbert.

16 MR. EGBERT: Good morning. Thanks for this  
17 opportunity. My name is Jim Egbert from  
18 Gulf Shores. I am assistant manager of  
19 reservations, Gulf Shores  
20 Plantation/Mandoki Hospitality. My  
21 issue is, again, with the same  
22 regulations that were spoken about  
23 earlier.

1           These regulations which were  
2           originally partly intended to apply to  
3           commercial operation shrimpers/net  
4           fishermen have now been combined to  
5           include the individual. So we now face  
6           the same burden as an individual who has  
7           a shrimp boat if we're fishing on the  
8           beach for whiting. We can't dispose of  
9           that half-cup of shrimp into the Gulf  
10          without taking it three miles out. If  
11          we're fishing in the bay for trout,  
12          flounder, the same thing applies. We  
13          have to take it 500 feet away from the  
14          beach to put it into the bay or harbor.  
15          The bay or harbor comes from the Clean  
16          Water Act, the verbiage.

17                 I have given a formal petition to  
18                 rework paragraphs 7 and 8 of 220-4 --  
19                 I'm sorry -- -3.04 asking that the  
20                 language be changed back to where it was  
21                 originally intended. You have  
22                 provisions in inland waters bringing up  
23                 carcasses 500 feet from the beach.

1           Our cleaning stations on the pier are  
2           over 500 feet away. You have provisions  
3           allowing for shark fishermen where he  
4           can dump his chum within 300 feet of the  
5           water, but for some reason now if you're  
6           fishing from the beach for whiting you  
7           have to take your bycatch three miles  
8           out.

9           We ask you to have every  
10          consideration of the proposal in front  
11          of you, the petition, and we look  
12          forward to your answer on that.

13          This is basically what we're  
14          required to do. If you have anything  
15          left over, you got to carry it around  
16          because you can't dispose of it at my  
17          condo. You can't dispose of it at the  
18          pier. Even if the proposal is adopted  
19          to move them down and provide  
20          containers, the law states you cannot  
21          dispose of fish carcasses into refuse  
22          containers. So we ask you for your  
23          consideration on making those changes.

1           Thank you.

2           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you.

3                     Mr. Blankenship, do you have any  
4                     comment at this time on that?

5           MR. BLANKENSHIP: The only comment I have is  
6                     that, you know, Tim Wishum and I are  
7                     working together to come up with a  
8                     win-win solution for this for the  
9                     long-term. In the short-term we have  
10                    addressed that on the pier. Tim has  
11                    addressed that with their people. And,  
12                    I mean, it is -- as we have more people  
13                    that return to the coast to fish, it's  
14                    an issue that has to be dealt with not  
15                    only at the pier, but at the boat ramps,  
16                    at the condominiums and other places.  
17                    And we're trying to find solutions to  
18                    that whereby we can -- these carcasses  
19                    can be used for fertilizer and working  
20                    with the Alabama and Auburn -- with the  
21                    Auburn Sea Grant Extension to come up  
22                    with some solutions. And so it is in  
23                    the forefront of things that we're

1           working on.

2           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Thank you,  
3           Mr. Blankenship. Thank you, Mr. Egbert.

4           MR. EGBERT: We do appreciate the efforts of  
5           both the department and division. It  
6           creates a catch-22 for the Code stating  
7           one thing. It's like the Parks saying  
8           it's okay to drive 70 miles through the  
9           state parks when the Code says it's only  
10          35. And that's the issue that we have  
11          right now. So we ask for consideration  
12          in rewriting.

13          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Egbert.

14          MR. EGBERT: Thank you.

15          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is Robert  
16          Miller, Jr.

17          MR. MILLER: My name is Bob Miller. I live in  
18          Gulf Shores, Alabama, Baldwin County,  
19          and guess what I want to talk about.  
20          The pier. I've kind of got -- some of  
21          this has already been covered, I know,  
22          and -- but just since I drove all the  
23          way up here, I'm going to say it

1           anyway.

2                   This is also about 220-3.7 and 8. I  
3           would like to say that maybe in a  
4           temporary situation -- since the pier  
5           opened in '09, we were not only invited  
6           to and we were applauded for throwing  
7           our remains of fish carcasses and such  
8           into the Gulf of Mexico. And one of the  
9           first questions I asked was at the pier  
10          house, what about washing up on the  
11          beach. And this was a year after the  
12          pier started up when we started talking  
13          about this. And there had been no  
14          complaints at the pier about carcasses  
15          washing up on the beach. And I had  
16          personally seen them, that what the  
17          birds don't get, the crab and the fish  
18          and the toothy critters get.

19                   So it really creates a problem for  
20          folks out of town. I can take them home  
21          and put them in my neighbor's garbage  
22          can, so I don't have to worry about it.  
23          But if I'm down there -- if I come down

1 from Arkansas -- and you'll find in your  
2 packet there's a letter from a guy in  
3 Arkansas. He drove around with it in  
4 his car hunting a place to get rid of  
5 it. And he feels like a criminal by  
6 catching -- paying to catch fish on our  
7 pier, on a beautiful facility, and then  
8 he has to act like a criminal to get rid  
9 of it. Because he can't get rid of them  
10 at his condo or his rental property.  
11 You can't put them in the trash can. I  
12 know we've got an exception to that, but  
13 that's going to be unbelievably bad.  
14 And we've been told by the pier in the  
15 past to throw them overboard and then we  
16 were told put them in the garbage can.  
17 Then we were told no. Then they moved  
18 the garbage cans and took them away.  
19 And it depends on who you talk to what  
20 story you get about what's legal.

21 Can you clean your fish on the pier  
22 and take home only the filet, or can you  
23 clean your fish on the pier, take

1           everything home? It depends on who  
2           stops you in the parking lot wearing a  
3           uniform as to what the -- people have  
4           been given warning tickets for  
5           littering -- not -- well, I think it was  
6           for littering, actually. It's in your  
7           packet that you got for the formal  
8           request from Jim -- the letter is.

9           But it's just a sticky situation. I  
10          would love to see in the interim an  
11          exception to the three-mile rule,  
12          because they're not washing up on the  
13          deck -- on the beach. And it's nowhere  
14          near the volume of one shrimp boat.  
15          Because we don't all catch. A lot of us  
16          go out there just to enjoy that  
17          beautiful facility we have on Gulf  
18          Shores. And it's really a deterrent to  
19          the people that want to come down to the  
20          beach and fish just for enjoyment. It's  
21          not like we're harvesting tons of fish.  
22          I know I'm not hurting the population,  
23          even though I spend days -- several days

1 a week out there and spend my money.

2 MS. JONES: Mr. Miller, time.

3 MR. MILLER: Okay. And I thank you very much  
4 for considering this issue.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Miller.

6 MR. MILLER: Any other --

7 MR. HATLEY: Mr. Miller, the guy from  
8 Arkansas --

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hatley, if you'll  
10 address the Chair, please, sir.

11 MR. HATLEY: Oh, I'm sorry.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Do you have a question for  
13 Mr. Miller?

14 MR. HATLEY: I have a point, I guess.

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Please make it.

16 MR. HATLEY: The guy from Arkansas,  
17 Mr. Miller, I think he brought that out  
18 to Cotton Creek and put it in a dumpster  
19 next to my house.

20 MR. MILLER: He said it was the only one he  
21 could find that wasn't locked. Please  
22 help us out.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you.

1           Mr. Hatley, that was probably a  
2           strange smell of smelling fish at your  
3           house because I know your fishing  
4           ability.

5           The next speaker is Adam Morck.

6           MR. MORCK: Thank you very much. And I'm Adam  
7           Morck. I'm from Foley, Alabama, Baldwin  
8           County. I'm strategic accounts director  
9           for ABM. We handle environmental  
10          services across the nation. My concern,  
11          obviously, is one of the items that has  
12          been a hot topic today. And I, also,  
13          would like to address the same  
14          miscellaneous and public access  
15          regulation in Chapter 220-3, paragraphs  
16          7 and 8, in regards to our pier.

17          Now, I know a lot of this has  
18          already been covered. My concern  
19          possibly is maybe looking for a way to  
20          find a solution to some of these  
21          issues. And I know that that is  
22          obviously an item of great interest.

23          Our main concern, obviously, is

1           tourism. We want to find tourists. And  
2           let's face it. The pier is one of the  
3           greatest attractions we have in the  
4           Gulf. And in dealing with such, they  
5           are getting to the point where the  
6           condos are not allowing them to dispose  
7           of these fish. The agencies that rent  
8           these things out and people are coming  
9           down that are spending their money, it  
10          gets to that point where they start  
11          going elsewhere.

12           I have two friends already that were  
13          given warnings by the people on the  
14          pier, and the next thing you know, hey,  
15          we're going to Pensacola this time,  
16          we're going to Panama City. And with  
17          them living in Atlanta and Arkansas and  
18          Kansas and different places, it's not  
19          any different for them to just travel an  
20          extra hour. And we lose that revenue.  
21          That's county revenue we lose. That's  
22          state revenue. And that goes toward  
23          helping our things on a local level.

1           One of the issues that we have with  
2           putting it on the ground is animals,  
3           pests, insects, and the smell.  
4           Obviously, these things will be  
5           attracted to such a thing. If we keep  
6           the organic material going back into the  
7           Gulf by someday, perhaps a grinder with  
8           maybe a two-part system, maybe a  
9           diamond-cut grinder that could emulsify  
10          it down to a place where it can  
11          decompose in the water, that could be an  
12          option as well.

13          Now, the question is who's going to  
14          fund that wonderful invention. But  
15          there's always other alternatives. And  
16          that's what we're looking for.  
17          Obviously, we want to work through this  
18          and come to some type of agreement.

19          And, as he said, if we could get the  
20          verbiage where it distinguishes the  
21          difference between commercial fisherman  
22          and recreational fisherman to the point  
23          where these regulations are in

1           accordance with reality, then we can  
2           come to an agreement and everyone could  
3           be happy, especially our tourists that  
4           are coming down and supporting our area  
5           during the summer months primarily. And  
6           that is all I have this morning.

7           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Morck, clarify for the  
8           board, what is your company's policy on  
9           such issues on that? Do y'all have  
10          policy within your company on that?

11         MR. MORCK: As far as waste management?

12         CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes. As far as like the  
13          fish carcasses.

14         MR. MORCK: We simply remove the items from --  
15          from the areas. It's not a matter of  
16          having a policy. It's --

17         CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: So y'all don't have any  
18          policy what goes in those dumpsters?

19         MR. MORCK: No. We remove it from the  
20          dumpsters.

21         CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. So you take it  
22          out. They're not your dumpsters?

23         MR. MORCK: Right.

1           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: So you're just the removal  
2           company. So the board -- because I'm  
3           not clear. I want the board to be clear  
4           on what you're lobbying for.

5           MR. MORCK: Right. And we deal with it on a  
6           daily basis where we see the worst of  
7           the worst. And I have seen some  
8           extremely nasty environments in my  
9           work. And it's something that we  
10          certainly don't want somebody to open up  
11          a dumpster or a can and a raccoon or  
12          something jump out and attack them. And  
13          we've actually seen animals, you know,  
14          run out and attack, you know, stray cats  
15          and hyenas and all kinds of different  
16          things across the nation. So we --

17          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Hyenas. Mr. Morck, this  
18          board is pretty aware of the game. I  
19          mean, you're going to say mountain lions  
20          next.

21                 Mr. Morck, I've got one more  
22          question. After you remove this  
23          material, what happens to that material

1           then? Where does it go?

2           MR. MORCK: It's generally taken to a compost  
3           or it's broken down, you know, wherever  
4           the waste management company that we  
5           hire carries it to in their facility.  
6           We subcontract a lot of that out.

7           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Very good. Does  
8           the board have any other questions?

9                           (No response.)

10          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much,  
11          Mr. Morck.

12                        Okay. The next speaker will be  
13          Charles Winkler.

14          DR. WINKLER: Thank you. I'm Fred Winkler,  
15          Dr. Fred Winkler. I'm a retired biology  
16          instructor for the two-year college in  
17          Andalusia. What I'd like to talk to you  
18          about this morning is the harvesting of  
19          freshwater turtles in Covington County  
20          for commercial use.

21                        This particular episode that I came  
22          upon was this past September. A friend  
23          and I, we like to go out on the Conecuh

1 River when the water is low and collect  
2 fossils. And we were down on the  
3 Conecuh there this late September  
4 afternoon, and a fellow pulled up in a  
5 van. He had three kayaks on the top of  
6 the van, and there were three people in  
7 the van. And he got out, and I soon --  
8 I got to talking to him a little bit,  
9 and I asked him what he was doing. He  
10 said he was down here to -- I asked him,  
11 are you down here kayaking? He said,  
12 no, I'm down here to collect turtles. I  
13 said, collect turtles, shame on you.  
14 What are you doing that for?

15 He said, a fellow's got to make a  
16 living and this is what I do. I come up  
17 here in Alabama. It's easy to get a  
18 permit to collect turtles. They've  
19 outlawed it in Florida. So it's easy to  
20 come up here and that's the way I make  
21 my living. He said, where I live in  
22 Florida, in my backyard I have over 500  
23 turtles that I've collected, and I sell

1           them to Japan and China and different  
2           places where the market is good, and  
3           it's been a very good, profitable  
4           business for me over the years.

5           And so, anyway, this kind of  
6           bothered me. So the next day I called  
7           up the Conservation Department and asked  
8           to speak to someone in the law  
9           enforcement area. And I talked to a  
10          captain there, and I told him that I had  
11          gotten the tag number of the car and the  
12          description of the vehicle and the --  
13          description of the van and so on, would  
14          he try to trace it down and see if  
15          it's -- where he's from. And he did and  
16          he traced the tag down. It was from  
17          central Florida. And, sure enough, he  
18          checked the permit too. He had a permit  
19          to collect turtles in Alabama. In fact,  
20          he had two permits, one for himself and  
21          one for his son. And about the other  
22          party, I don't know whether they were  
23          from -- had a permit or not.

1           But Covington County has an  
2           abundance of water -- there's about five  
3           different streams and rivers that go  
4           through there. And I don't believe that  
5           anybody can permit and check an  
6           individual to what type of turtles  
7           they're collecting. I don't think the  
8           conservation officers have been trained  
9           to identify the different turtles and  
10          know which ones that they can collect  
11          and which ones they can't collect. And  
12          I would like to recommend that they do  
13          some type in-service education for the  
14          conservation officers and, also, to look  
15          at Florida's laws on stopping the  
16          collecting and commercial --

17       MS. JONES: Dr. Winkler, time.

18       DR. WINKLER: -- use in Covington County and  
19                   Alabama. Thank you very much.

20       CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

21                Mr. Winkler and the next two other  
22                speakers, I'm going to get Stan Cook to  
23                comment after -- y'all are all three on

1           the same subject, so --

2           COMMISSIONER GUY: Or Fred.

3           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Or Fred, whoever.

4                     All right. The next speaker will be  
5           Craig Guyer.

6           MR. GUYER: I'm Craig Guyer from Lee County,  
7           Auburn. I'm a professor in biological  
8           sciences at Auburn University, and I'm  
9           here to talk on the very same issue  
10          about turtle regulation.

11                    For 25 years my grad students and I  
12          have done population studies of the  
13          turtles in our state. This is a very  
14          rich and diverse state from a turtle  
15          perspective. And I'm here to encourage  
16          you to see if we can't get ahead of an  
17          issue that does seem to be emerging in  
18          this state relative to regulating our  
19          turtle populations.

20                    All of the research that I know of  
21          and that has emerged from my lab tells  
22          us that the single worst thing you can  
23          do for a turtle population is to allow

1           the big oldest reproductive individuals  
2           to disappear, and that is the group of  
3           turtles that is being valued in foreign  
4           market, largely the Asian foreign  
5           market. And there's a very small number  
6           of folks who are harvesting those  
7           turtles for this purpose.

8           So if we're to retain those in our  
9           state's fauna, it is my professional  
10          opinion that we do need to get out ahead  
11          of this issue. All of our local states  
12          have contacted me about the wisdom of a  
13          total ban on turtle for commercial  
14          purposes, and it's my professional  
15          opinion that that's what we need to do  
16          if we're going to maintain our turtle  
17          populations. And I would like to see us  
18          open the discussion of seeing whether we  
19          are going to join with what I believe to  
20          be the direction that our neighboring  
21          states are going, which is to ban this  
22          until we can understand how to maintain  
23          that resource.

1           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Guyer, I believe we'll  
2                           have several questions.

3                           Commissioner McMillan.

4           MR. McMILLAN: Yes. Two things. How do they  
5                           ship them and what do they do with  
6                           them?

7           MR. GUYER: I've never seen the shippers. All  
8                           I've seen is pictures of them. But it's  
9                           generally large, big wooden crates, and  
10                          they toss them in there by the  
11                          hundreds.

12          MR. McMILLAN: For what use?

13          MR. GUYER: Some of it is medicinal purposes.  
14                          The spleen is thought to be an  
15                          aphrodisiac in some cultures. And it's  
16                          being used for food meat, but largely  
17                          for very small bits of the turtle and  
18                          then the rest of it is discarded.

19          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Commissioner McMillan, in  
20                          y'all's department is there a commercial  
21                          turtle operation, or do y'all handle  
22                          that?

23          MR. McMILLAN: No. We leave it to the

1 experts.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I figured you would.

3 Any other questions?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Thank you,

6 sir.

7 The next speaker is Jim Godwin.

8 MR. GODWIN: Yes. I'm Jim Godwin. I'm with  
9 Auburn University. I'm a zoologist  
10 there. One of my areas of expertise is  
11 the southeastern turtles. I've been in  
12 Alabama -- for about the past 15 years  
13 I've been in Alabama studying the  
14 turtles, and this issue of regulating  
15 the commercial harvest is one that's  
16 growing. It's going to be a problem if  
17 it's not addressed. It's going to be a  
18 problem in Alabama as is being pointed  
19 out. Adjacent states have tightened up  
20 their regulations, and if we don't do  
21 something, we're going to see a real  
22 decline in the turtle numbers that we  
23 have here in Alabama.

1           There are two important -- globally  
2           two important areas in the world for  
3           turtles. One is southeast Asia. The  
4           other is the southeastern United  
5           States. Alabama is in the middle of  
6           this incredible turtle diversity. We  
7           have more turtles in Alabama than any  
8           other place in North America and in many  
9           places in South America.

10           The turtles are harvested. They're  
11           sent to Asia for food. The Asians  
12           have -- they eat many species. They've,  
13           in fact, driven many of their native  
14           species to the brink of extinction. The  
15           other area where the turtles are used is  
16           in Europe where it goes -- they go into  
17           the pet trade.

18           Thousands of these turtles leave the  
19           United States every year. And so as  
20           it's been pointed out, Georgia, Florida  
21           have tightened up their regulations.  
22           And so the commercial harvesters will be  
23           looking to places like Alabama where

1           there's more freedom to come in and take  
2           what they want.

3           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Godwin, I've got a  
4           quick question. I know the board may.

5                     I've seen an awful lot of publicity  
6           in the Everglades that the boas have  
7           wiped out the turtles down there. Do  
8           you go along with that?

9           MR. GODWIN: I don't know if they've wiped out  
10          the turtles. They're affecting most of  
11          the other fauna in the Everglades, yes,  
12          the mammals, the birds, taken some  
13          alligators.

14          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: A very good reason this  
15          board watches the exotic pets like we  
16          do.

17                     Dr. Strickland.

18          DR. STRICKLAND: Mr. Chairman, can I address  
19          the speaker?

20          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, absolutely.

21          DR. STRICKLAND: Jim, could you give us a  
22          little bit of insight with regards to  
23          the life cycle of the turtle?

1 MR. GODWIN: The life cycle, yes. Thank you  
2 for that question, yes.

3 Yeah. The reason that the turtles  
4 cannot sustain this commercial harvest  
5 is that they're long-lived. You know,  
6 so you've got turtles that can live 40  
7 or 50 years. Well, they lay a lot of  
8 eggs. All right. But there's a high  
9 mortality of eggs. In fact, it's not  
10 uncommon that in nesting beaches you can  
11 find, you know, turtles nesting there  
12 over -- from the spring to the summer.  
13 And up to 90 percent of those eggs are  
14 lost to predators. Even if the turtle  
15 hatches, then for the first few years  
16 that little turtle is still susceptible  
17 to predation. So it takes these turtles  
18 four or five years before they reach the  
19 point where they're free from this  
20 predation pressure.

21 Well, the females -- so then the  
22 females are the really critical age  
23 class within the turtles. And so it may

1           take them eight or ten or 12 years to  
2           reach maturity before they then can  
3           begin reproducing. Well, so then  
4           they've got this long time span where  
5           they're laying eggs with, you know, sort  
6           of the hope that they can just hatch off  
7           a few individuals to come back into the  
8           population to replace themselves and to  
9           add to their population. So we pull out  
10          these females and we're removing the  
11          most critical age class from the  
12          population. And so, you know, the  
13          females tend to be larger. They've got  
14          more meat. They're more desirable from  
15          a commercial standpoint.

16         DR. STRICKLAND: So I guess this underscores  
17                 how delicate the life cycle in removing  
18                 the females and the older adults, which  
19                 sounds like the ones that the commercial  
20                 turtle harvesters are looking for, can  
21                 have a pretty detrimental impact fairly  
22                 quickly and it would take years to  
23                 recover.

1 MR. GODWIN: Yes, it can. Yes. Along with  
2 all the other pressures that are out  
3 there for them.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Dobbs, I believe you  
5 have a question.

6 MR. DOBBS: Chairman Moultrie, thank you very  
7 much.

8 What species of turtles are they  
9 targeting? Multiple species? And what  
10 species of turtles that we have here in  
11 Alabama -- don't we have some that are  
12 protected?

13 MR. GODWIN: We do have ones that are  
14 protected. The ones that tend to be  
15 targeted for food are the soft shells,  
16 the snapping turtles. We've got two  
17 species of snapping turtles in the  
18 state. We've got the common snapping  
19 turtle, which is -- I don't believe it  
20 has any real protection. Then there's  
21 the alligator snapping turtle which is  
22 state protected. We have map turtles  
23 which are state protected. We've got a

1           few other ones that have -- we have a  
2           couple that have federal protection and  
3           a few others with state protection.

4       MR. DOBBS:   Again, which ones do you think  
5           that they're targeting, that these  
6           fellows are harvesting and shipping?

7       MR. GODWIN:  I think that they would be  
8           targeting soft-shell turtles, snapping  
9           turtles, probably cooters, which are  
10          these big basking turtles you see in the  
11          rivers and lakes, red-eared turtles.  
12          Those would be the most common ones.  
13          And then I know with what Dr. Winkler  
14          said, I believe what he encountered  
15          were -- was a harvester that was taking  
16          musk turtles, which are actually very  
17          small turtles, but they're desirable for  
18          the pet trade.

19       CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE:  Mr. Moody, did you have  
20           comments?

21       MR. GODWIN:  Thank you very much.

22       MR. MOODY:  Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  This is  
23           on our radar screen.  It's something

1           that we feel very strongly that we are  
2           going to have to address in some form or  
3           fashion. We had a pretty good  
4           discussion within the law enforcement  
5           and wildlife sections within the last  
6           month to discuss this issue and to look  
7           at it. Apparently, the food and pet  
8           trade in Asia and Europe are growing,  
9           and, you know, it's something that most  
10          of us aren't aware of. We don't see it  
11          until somebody brings it to our  
12          attention.

13                 We are very fortunate that Dr. Guyer  
14                 and Mr. Godwin are very knowledgeable  
15                 herpetologists and we have their  
16                 expertise to draw on. There's not that  
17                 many people that are studying turtles.  
18                 But Mark Sasser on our staff has done a  
19                 good job of pulling together information  
20                 from other states and looking at what  
21                 they are doing and trying to give us  
22                 some thoughts and recommendations on how  
23                 we need to react and be prepared to come

1           before you with some kind of  
2           recommendation.

3           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you. Please let us  
4           know what we can do with that. I know  
5           in the past couple of years we've  
6           learned that the northern states were  
7           coming down and getting our big catfish,  
8           and now people are getting our turtles.  
9           So we've got to watch all of it. And  
10          y'all do an excellent job at that.

11                    Any other comments from the board?

12                            (No response.)

13          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next speaker is  
14          Rush Meriwether.

15                    Oh, Dr. Strickland.

16          DR. STRICKLAND: Yeah. Mr. Chairman, you  
17          know, I really see this as a potential  
18          very serious issue, as Dr. Guyer and  
19          Dr. Godwin brought forth to the board.  
20          And, you know, we really -- I think this  
21          is something that we really need to act  
22          on pretty quickly, you know.

23                    And I see that you have a task force

1           in place, but I would certainly like for  
2           you all, Gary, to bring some information  
3           back to the board on where we are and  
4           what we're going to do to try to bring a  
5           halt to the problem.

6           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yeah. And especially with  
7           us discussing it here, we can pass that  
8           to you at the next meeting.

9                     Very good. The next speaker is  
10           Mr. Rush Meriwether.

11           MR. MERIWETHER: Good morning. My name is  
12           Rush Meriwether. I live in Mathews,  
13           Alabama. I'm here to speak about dove  
14           hunting, particularly the setting of the  
15           seasons.

16                     My concern is that the season is  
17           opening too early for the following  
18           reasons: It's too hot. There's plenty  
19           of snakes out. There's plenty of  
20           mosquitoes out, flies, et cetera. Also,  
21           it's very difficult to properly have a  
22           food source for the birds because  
23           browntop is the (inaudible) crop. You

1           plant it first of July. You don't get  
2           any rain. So, therefore, it's not ready  
3           to go by the time season opens in early  
4           September.

5                     And probably the most important  
6           issue for me, as I've hunted dove all my  
7           life, is the nesting cycle for doves. I  
8           know that probably there's a lot of  
9           people in here that have hunted birds  
10          and they've been hunting early in the  
11          season and they'll get a bird to fly off  
12          the nest and knowing that that bird is  
13          going to go out and potentially be  
14          harvested and, therefore, not just  
15          killing that bird, but killing the ones  
16          that are in the nest and would be  
17          available to harvest at another point in  
18          time.

19                    I don't know how many people here  
20          remember that dove season used to open  
21          on October the 1st and run through the  
22          middle part of December. Well, it was  
23          decided to back it up to somewhere

1           around Labor Day. And, again, I'm  
2           just -- I don't know of any hunter that  
3           I speak of in the Montgomery area that's  
4           for that earlier season opening. Most  
5           of them would rather it be later on in  
6           October like it was. And I would just  
7           respectfully request that the board  
8           consider moving dove season forward to  
9           October the 1st and running it  
10          consecutively --

11         CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the microphone,  
12           please, Mr. Meriwether.

13         MR. MERIWETHER: I'm sorry?

14         CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you would speak into  
15           the microphone, please.

16         MR. MERIWETHER: Just move the season forward  
17           to October the 1st and let it run  
18           through the latter part of November and  
19           reduce the middle season or whatever it  
20           is now to just a second season, as it  
21           used to be, that maybe runs ten days in  
22           the month of December. Because that's  
23           generally -- I don't really know of

1           anybody that hunts that second season  
2           because it's very difficult in this --  
3           to have any tract for the birds  
4           (inaudible) or the deer or whatever by  
5           the time that season comes around.

6                     That's all I have. Thank you, sir.  
7           Thank y'all.

8           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you,  
9           Mr. Meriwether.

10                    The next speaker is Michael Hagood.

11           MR. HAGOOD: My name is Michael Hagood. I  
12           live in Carbon Hill. I hunt mainly the  
13           Walker County-Fayette County area.

14                    In years past, you know, this state  
15           accomplished some great things with the  
16           deer herd as far as making huntable  
17           populations in places where there wasn't  
18           before. But in my opinion, the  
19           one-size-fits-all deer management that's  
20           being used in this state has run its  
21           course and it's time for it to end.

22                    It's impossible to believe that applying  
23           the same seasons and bag limits to all

1           67 counties is the best way to manage  
2           the deer herd and provide what is best  
3           for the health of the deer herd and the  
4           men and women in this state that hunt  
5           those deer.

6           For example, where I live in Walker  
7           County, the deer density is much lower  
8           than in south-central Alabama and I am  
9           sure higher than other parts of the  
10          state. Yet all of these areas have the  
11          same seasons and the same bag limits.

12          I know there's places in the state  
13          that still have many deer. Where I live  
14          that is not the case and has never been  
15          the case. The deer density did not need  
16          to be reduced in Walker County, but that  
17          has happened in the last four to five  
18          years, applying the same management  
19          practices to this area as you have  
20          applied to areas that were overpopulated  
21          and needed to be reduced. No  
22          intelligent person can come to the  
23          conclusion that this is or was the best

1 solution to manage the state's deer  
2 herd.

3 If we have places where the deer  
4 densities are at an unhealthy level,  
5 then, by all means, make the changes  
6 that are needed to reduce those numbers,  
7 even if you have to go as far as having  
8 a doe-only season where no bucks can be  
9 killed. But in places where this is not  
10 the case, either limit the amount of  
11 does that can be killed or the season  
12 that the does can be killed in.

13 Most other states break their states  
14 down into zones and make decisions on  
15 bag limits based on what that zone needs  
16 and that zone only. Most of the hunters  
17 that I have talked to about this would  
18 welcome zones in the state of Alabama  
19 similar to what they have in the state  
20 of Mississippi, ever what would be best  
21 for this state. In zones that a later  
22 season would be beneficial, well, then,  
23 start it two weeks later and end it two

1 weeks later. In a zone that more does  
2 need to be killed, well, then, fix it to  
3 where more does can be killed. In north  
4 Alabama and places where there are few  
5 deer, you could shorten it in those  
6 zones.

7 To me, this is not rocket science.  
8 See what's working to produce the best  
9 results in other states and use it. We  
10 don't have to reinvent the wheel here.  
11 Almost anything would be an improvement  
12 over what we have right now in my  
13 opinion. That's all I've got to say.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Hagood.

15 The next speaker will be Edwards  
16 "Mack" McReynolds.

17 MR. McREYNOLDS: Thank you very much. I am  
18 from Oviedo, Florida, Seminole County.  
19 And I grew up in Dothan, graduated from  
20 a college here in Alabama and was in the  
21 National Guard here. And my wife and I  
22 had the fortunate opportunity on  
23 December the 15th, 2005, to buy a

1           gorgeous piece of property in Dale  
2           County. It's probably the highest  
3           elevation in Dale County.

4                   And I ask you today that -- we,  
5           obviously, like a lot of hunters, make a  
6           sizable investment in this land, and we  
7           make a sizable investment in managing  
8           this land. And it feels like an  
9           outsider when I go in and pay \$275 for a  
10          hunting license. And I would suggest  
11          that the Commissioner consider allowing  
12          property owners who live outside of the  
13          state of Alabama to bring in their paid  
14          tax receipt, and if their paid tax  
15          receipt is twice the amount of a hunting  
16          license of \$275, then that person would  
17          only be allowed to pay whatever -- no  
18          more than an Alabama resident would  
19          pay. And that would provide  
20          reasonableness to the situation and it  
21          wouldn't penalize people like me. I was  
22          born in Mobile, Alabama, 64 years ago  
23          today. And I just feel like it's

1           inappropriate and unfair.

2           The second topic I want to talk to  
3           you about is, I travel from Dothan to  
4           Ozark hunting every day, and there's a  
5           meat-processing place I pass by when I'm  
6           going or coming. And I generally stop  
7           in there to get current information on  
8           what's being harvested and see what's  
9           going on. The first part of the hunting  
10          season I drive by, go in there and see  
11          Jimmy and, lo and behold, there's two  
12          button bucks laying on the floor back  
13          there. And I said, Jimmy, what is  
14          this? He said, man, that deer will  
15          probably clean out at maybe 16 pounds of  
16          meat. And I said, I just can't believe  
17          this.

18          Now, I own some property in Florida,  
19          which I work with the St. Johns Water  
20          Management District and sold a  
21          conservation easement on it. And we've  
22          had this property since 1960. So I've  
23          been in this business of wildlife

1 management for a long, long time. And  
2 so that disturbed me a great deal. It  
3 just doesn't look right and it doesn't  
4 feel right in the belt.

5 So later on, a couple of weeks  
6 later, I go by there again. Two more  
7 button bucks just laying there and then  
8 two fawns. And I'm sitting here saying,  
9 has the Alabama wildlife management  
10 program gone amuck?

11 And from what I can tell in my  
12 experience from 44 years of owning  
13 wildlife interests and investing in it,  
14 I think we're making a serious mistake  
15 by letting these animals be slaughtered  
16 in this manner without any oversight.

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you,

19 Mr. McReynolds.

20 The next speaker is Brad Biddle.

21 MR. BIDDLE: I feel like the guy that got up  
22 here and said something about driving  
23 all this way, so I'm going to talk about

1           it too. I don't have a pier or any  
2           turtles, but I would like to talk about  
3           deer season.

4           I have a nine-year-old son, and he  
5           is -- he and my daughter are my pride  
6           and joy. And my son thinks it's really  
7           cool to go hunting with dad. I went to  
8           the University of Auburn, not a  
9           university in the state of Alabama,  
10          thank you.

11          I've hunted in Marshall County. We  
12          own a farm in Marshall County. I plant  
13          year-around food. I lime. I  
14          fertilize. I fertilize undergrowth,  
15          honeysuckle, everything the deer need.  
16          There's not many people in here that  
17          are -- that can remember when there  
18          weren't any deer. I can remember when  
19          there were no deer in south Marshall  
20          County because they were stocked in  
21          1985. We went from no doe days to three  
22          doe days to seven doe days to 120 doe  
23          days, two a day. The population on our

1 farm has gone from marginally huntable  
2 to none. We have one of the largest  
3 plots of land at 120 acres. When you  
4 got a guy hunting 120 here and a guy  
5 hunting 10 here and 40 here and  
6 everybody is out trying to shoot some  
7 deer, the doe population goes away  
8 pretty quickly.

9 TV, the big buck hunter from  
10 Illinois and all this has done a really  
11 good job of educating the younger  
12 generation that does are bad. Shoot  
13 does. You got to kill does if you want  
14 to kill big bucks. Well, most of these  
15 younger guys don't know anything about  
16 deer management, don't know anything  
17 about habitat management.

18 If your population is below the  
19 carrying capacity of the land, shooting  
20 does accomplishes nothing. And I  
21 haven't seen a browse line in this state  
22 in the last 25 years. I have seen  
23 browse lines, but it's been 25 years

1           ago.

2                   I've hunted in Marshall County this  
3           year. I have a lease in Tallapoosa  
4           County this year. And I've hunted in  
5           Cherokee County this year. I've seen  
6           seven deer this season. I keep cameras  
7           running 24 hours a day 365 days a year.  
8           On our farm I have one picture of one  
9           doe since September.

10                   We're almost to the point of having  
11           to restock south Marshall County. I  
12           mean, I would propose -- I know that it  
13           probably still won't happen. I would  
14           propose a total ban on doe harvesting in  
15           south Marshall County and that general  
16           DeKalb County area. Now, Jackson County  
17           is an outlier. They've got different  
18           soil types. They've got a lot of deer.  
19           Marshall, DeKalb, Etowah, Cherokee,  
20           those counties --

21           MS. JONES: Mr. Biddle, time.

22           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let -- go ahead and  
23           continue just a little bit.

1 MR. BIDDLE: Those specific geographical areas  
2 cannot sustain the current rate of deer  
3 harvest.

4 A good friend of mine is in a club  
5 from Cherokee County. It's 1200 acres  
6 of prime, prime habitat, honeysuckle,  
7 greenbrier, great cover. From  
8 December 15th until the end of the  
9 season not one person in that club saw a  
10 deer. I went up there one day because I  
11 thought they had a die-off. I thought  
12 maybe EHD had taken the deer or  
13 something. I found one set of tracks in  
14 one food plot on that club.

15 You know, we've been wide open on  
16 killing does for, I think, seven years  
17 now. I don't remember for sure. I'm  
18 afraid we passed the tipping point. I  
19 know management is a swinging pendulum  
20 and you can go too far one way and too  
21 far the other. But, you know, I'm  
22 afraid that we've gone way too far this  
23 way.

1           And I'm like somebody said a minute  
2           ago. This needs some immediate  
3           attention. Because another couple of  
4           years -- combined with the coyote  
5           predation, our fawn recruitment rate is  
6           almost zero. I mean, Dr. Ditchkoff and  
7           the guys at Auburn and the guys at  
8           Mississippi State and Tennessee, these  
9           guys do extensive research on coyote  
10          predation. And when they say 60 percent  
11          of the fawn crop is taken by coyotes  
12          annually and then you combine that with  
13          hunters shooting everything they see, it  
14          doesn't take long to knock the deer herd  
15          down.

16          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Biddle, we appreciate  
17          it.

18                 Mr. Moody, are you aware of this  
19                 situation in Marshall County, ever heard  
20                 that?

21                 Whose district is Marshall County  
22                 in?

23                 Austin, if you could follow up and

1           get with Mr. Moody on that, too, and get  
2           some follow-up.

3       MR. AINSWORTH: I will.

4       CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All right. The next  
5           speaker will be Taylor Gilbert.

6       MR. GILBERT: My name is Taylor Gilbert. I'm  
7           from Priceville, Alabama, in St. Clair  
8           County. And I'm here representing the  
9           small game hunters, basically rabbit  
10          hunters.

11                And I strongly support the state's  
12           Wildlife Management Areas and Forever  
13           Wild and Forever Wild's field trials  
14           area, but I'm just as strong against  
15           extending the deer season as I am  
16           supportive of the others. Because as it  
17           stands right now, the rabbit hunters  
18           have basically what we consider a  
19           one-month season. That's the month of  
20           January. And it so happens this meeting  
21           is cutting out one of our days of rabbit  
22           hunting.

23                But all the deer leases and deer

1 hunters, they don't want rabbit hunters  
2 around during deer season. And so if  
3 they extend the deer season, that's  
4 going to do away with the small game  
5 hunters. And I'm not going to expound  
6 on the benefits of the small game  
7 hunters, such as training kids up the  
8 right way and so forth. But we'll talk  
9 about the negative of extending the deer  
10 season which I'm against. But we're  
11 not, I'm going to say, bipartisan, but  
12 we're willing to compromise. If they  
13 want to extend the deer season into  
14 February, then have a split deer  
15 season. Give us the month of December.  
16 They can have the month of February.  
17 That's basically all I've got to say.

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Gilbert.

19 The next -- if y'all could hold your  
20 applause till the end of the public  
21 session, please.

22 Mr. William Smith will be our next  
23 speaker.

1 MR. SMITH: I'm with Mr. Taylor Gilbert.

2 We're in the same group. We're all  
3 speaking on the same thing, so I'll  
4 pass.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much for  
6 combining on that. The board will take  
7 notice of that.

8 Mr. Jack Williamson will be the next  
9 speaker.

10 MR. WILLIAMSON: I'm Jack Williamson from  
11 Conecuh County, Alabama, the city of  
12 Evergreen, I guess, if you'll call it  
13 the city. I have been before y'all five  
14 of the last six years asking for the  
15 same thing. Change the seasons for deer  
16 hunting in south Alabama.

17 Mr. Guy, I read your reports, and I  
18 agree with them 100 percent. Do not  
19 extend the deer season. Do not make it  
20 one day longer. I think it would be  
21 detrimental to the herd. But we are not  
22 allowed in our area to hunt deer during  
23 the rut.

1           We have the native deer of Alabama,  
2           the genetics that were here when  
3           Columbus discovered America. They are  
4           late-breeding deer; yet the people that  
5           have the deer from the other areas, like  
6           Michigan, Ohio, Texas, have an earlier  
7           breeding date than our deer. We need to  
8           be allowed to hunt them during the rut.

9           I hope that Mr. Moultrie would  
10          support this on the same scenario that  
11          you supported the use of turkey decoys.  
12          I would hope that the other members of  
13          this board would also.

14          Mr. Hatley, I hope you would support  
15          it because it affects so many counties  
16          that are in your district.

17          And, Dr. Strickland, you're a big  
18          supporter of bow hunting in this state,  
19          one of the greatest supporters of it.  
20          It would help our bow hunters to open  
21          the season later.

22          And, Mr. Hartzog, the counties that  
23          are also in your district are affected

1           by this.

2                     And, Dr. Shipp, you have changed the  
3           snapper seasons, the oyster seasons, and  
4           the shrimp seasons. Use that as a  
5           grounds to also change our deer seasons  
6           in this state.

7                     It's just a sad state of affairs  
8           that we are not allowed to hunt -- the  
9           rut will start next week. Next week is  
10          when you'll see our bucks running in the  
11          daytime. You'll see scrapes all in the  
12          woods. You'll see them running all over  
13          the place, does crossing highways.  
14          We're going to have more and more  
15          automobile accidents in the next few  
16          weeks.

17                    The season should and needs to be  
18          changed for south Alabama. It's a very  
19          simple thing to do. The gentleman  
20          talking about rabbits had the solution.  
21          I've talked to many of the people  
22          there. They say we'd give up the whole  
23          month of December for February or we'd

1           be willing to give up the first two  
2           weeks in order to have two weeks in  
3           February. I do not want an extended  
4           season.

5           Mr. Guy missed one social issue. If  
6           you extend the season, the divorce rate  
7           will go up in Alabama. So we do not  
8           need to extend it.

9           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Williamson, let me  
10          interrupt you here for a second.

11          Mr. Moody, what do the fetal studies  
12          from his county show? When is the rut  
13          dates?

14          MR. MOODY: They're in here and I'll have to  
15          dig them out.

16          MR. WILLIAMSON: I can give them to you.  
17          They --

18          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Well, Mr. Williamson, I'm  
19          going to get that from Mr. Moody if you  
20          don't mind. I think we know your  
21          opinion.

22          Mr. Williamson, thank you very  
23          much. I think the board is well aware

1 of your situation and we're well looking  
2 into it. These fetal studies -- again,  
3 this decision by this board of seasons  
4 should be based on biological data, not  
5 human emotion of what somebody wants.  
6 And so I would encourage the board to  
7 look at the data presented by  
8 Mr. Moody's group, and then we'll make  
9 adjustments from there.

10 MR. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, sir.

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

12 Okay. We're going to take a  
13 15-minute recess before we get into the  
14 dog hunting/anti-dog hunting group. But  
15 be back promptly in 15 minutes.

16 (A brief recess was taken.)

17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We'll get started again.

18 I'm going to change the order. If the  
19 board will notice, I've got a speaker  
20 that had to leave, and the Chair is  
21 going to change him.

22 Our next speaker will be Mr. Charles  
23 Lawrence. Mr. Lawrence will be

1           accompanied by Mr. Schmidt. The board  
2           will notice they're trying to condense  
3           for us, condense the time down, so we  
4           appreciate that.

5                     Mr. Lawrence.

6           MR. LAWRENCE: Thank you. I'm --

7           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the microphone,  
8           please, Mr. Lawrence.

9           MR. LAWRENCE: I'm Charles Lawrence from  
10           Titus, Alabama. This is  
11           Colonel Al Schmidt, and this is David  
12           Law. We are landowners out in Titus.  
13           And we are here to speak against dog  
14           hunting in the Titus, Alabama, area.

15                    Mr. Hartzog is our Advisory Board  
16           rep, and we -- I have spoken to him and  
17           I believe Mr. Schmidt has on numerous  
18           occasions. And, actually, he told me  
19           that when we came up here he would ask  
20           the conservation officer to give him a  
21           history.

22                    Our conservation officer, Heath  
23           Walls, is here. And Mr. Walls has

1           agreed --

2           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE:   Okay, Mr. Lawrence.   We  
3           may speak on that in the new business  
4           section, but right now we want your  
5           comments.

6           MR. LAWRENCE:   Okay.   Well, go ahead, Al.   You  
7           want to talk real quick.

8           MR. SCHMIDT:   My name is Al Schmidt, and I  
9           thank you for the opportunity to be here  
10          today.   I, too, live in Elmore County  
11          near Titus, Alabama.   I have property  
12          adjacent to my friends here.

13                 My petition, which is on the table  
14          here in the midst of this, has some 14  
15          to 15 signatures representing  
16          approximately 1500 to 2,000 acres of  
17          land contiguous to my 150 acres that I  
18          live on and so on and so forth.   The  
19          problem that has been going on for many,  
20          many years, but particularly difficult  
21          this year, is that dog hunters were  
22          hunting and such that the dogs came --  
23          kept crossing property lines and coming

1           onto our areas.

2           My family and I are stalk/stand  
3           hunters. We have an Alabama TREASURE  
4           Forest. We've worked hard to do the  
5           right thing with our property. But dog  
6           hunting has been particularly difficult  
7           this year, but also it has been an  
8           ongoing problem.

9           The petition asks for the  
10          installation of a permit system. We're  
11          not trying to ban dog hunting. That's  
12          not my point at all. But I would like  
13          to see this board consider the  
14          installation of a permit system  
15          particularly for our area and perhaps  
16          all of Elmore County. But I'm not here  
17          to speak for the whole area. I'm  
18          talking principally the area that's --  
19          and I have given a description of the  
20          boundaries of that property. I thank  
21          you very much.

22          MR. LAW: My name is David Law, and I'm also  
23          one of the landowners there. And my

1 property actually borders Elmore and  
2 Coosa County. I own 160 acres there.  
3 I'm not much of a hunter, but I do like  
4 to enjoy my property without being --

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the microphone,  
6 please, sir.

7 MR. LAW: Sorry. I thought I was.

8 But I would like to have the  
9 opportunity to enjoy my property without  
10 worrying about getting shot at from the  
11 road from people supposedly searching  
12 for their dogs. It's become a big issue  
13 in our area.

14 It baffles me to know that -- one  
15 side of my fence is Coosa County. If  
16 you want to dog hunt there --

17 MS. JONES: Time.

18 MR. LAW: -- you must have a permit, but on  
19 the north side of my fence -- on the  
20 south side of my fence you do not have  
21 to have a permit. And I just don't  
22 quite understand why that would be  
23 different.

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. We appreciate  
2 y'all combining today.

3 Mr. Lawrence, do you have any final  
4 topic?

5 MR. LAWRENCE: Yes, I do.

6 I have a friend that has property in  
7 south Elmore County there in Redland,  
8 and there is no dog hunting there. And  
9 I'd like to ask the advisory committee  
10 why there's no dog hunting there and yet  
11 in Titus we do have it.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Where is there no dog  
13 hunting?

14 MR. LAWRENCE: In Redland, south Elmore  
15 County.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: What district is that?

17 MR. LAWRENCE: That would be Mr. Hartzog's.

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hartzog.

19 MR. HARTZOG: It's an area that's been closed  
20 by a previous board action.

21 MR. LAWRENCE: And just to add to what they  
22 said, I hunt back on Weoka Creek, which  
23 is our boundary line. And on two

1           different occasions I've had to hit the  
2           deck where hunters from across the creek  
3           were shooting at game that were in the  
4           creek or on my property. And, you know,  
5           again, like I said, it's causing an  
6           unsafe situation, and it's also causing  
7           a situation where -- we hunt ethically.  
8           We do feed plots. We try to manage our  
9           property. And, you know, once  
10          dog-hunting season opens up, everything  
11          goes out the window. Thank you for your  
12          time.

13          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Lawrence.

14                    The next speaker will be Justin  
15                    Brown.

16          MR. BROWN: If it's okay with you, can we  
17                    group together to save time?

18          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Is he a speaker also?

19          MR. BROWN: Yes.

20          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes. What's his name?

21          MR. BROWN: Sonny Granger.

22          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes. I appreciate y'all  
23                    going together.

1 MR. BROWN: No problem.

2 Earlier in the year I sent each of  
3 you a letter regarding our property in  
4 Coffee County, specifically in the  
5 Woodland Grove area. We've been in  
6 communication with Mr. Hartzog.

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the microphone,  
8 please, sir.

9 MR. BROWN: Sorry. Earlier this year I sent a  
10 letter out to the entire Advisory  
11 Board. I also included a PowerPoint  
12 presentation that I sent to each of you  
13 guys. I'm not sure if you guys got a  
14 chance to review that, but there's not a  
15 whole lot I can say that hasn't already  
16 been stated in years past concerning the  
17 dog hunting. It's an issue we deal with  
18 on a weekly basis, and we're tired of  
19 it. And we're just asking that this  
20 problem gets addressed.

21 It's not rocket science. We still  
22 hunt. We manage our land. The  
23 consistent perpetual trespassing of the

1 dogs on our property is just to the  
2 point to where something is going to  
3 happen, and we're asking you guys to  
4 address it. And like I said before,  
5 there's nothing I can say here that's  
6 any new information that you guys don't  
7 already know. Thank you for your time.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Brown.

9 Mr. Granger.

10 MR. GRANGER: Just to add to that, you know,  
11 this issue -- a lot of you have seen us  
12 up here before. This isn't the first  
13 time. This has been going on for  
14 years. You know, we respect the dog  
15 hunters and their tradition, but the  
16 problem is they're not respecting our  
17 tradition of still hunting by allowing  
18 the dogs to get on our property. It's a  
19 rampant problem.

20 If you'll look at the map, the large  
21 map that we printed out, that's our  
22 land, and inside of the yellow lines are  
23 the roads that are county and public

1 roads that are within our property  
2 boundaries. It represents 13 miles of  
3 public roads within our property.

4 And so I ask you to take a look at  
5 that and understand. There's -- in the  
6 other report you see the pictures of the  
7 guys lining the roads and things like  
8 that. Some of them are catching dogs.  
9 Some of them are actually shooting a  
10 deer. We do have a criminal trespass  
11 that occurred on the property this  
12 year. And, I mean, a lot of it -- a lot  
13 of things. We've had a rampant  
14 problem. It was literally every  
15 weekend, all the time.

16 Our tradition is a club that was  
17 started 40 years ago, and our club is in  
18 jeopardy because we've got guys who  
19 don't want to deal with the stress, who  
20 won't come up here and speak, because  
21 they're honestly scared. And they don't  
22 want to have the stress of that. They  
23 hunt for stress relief, not stress

1           addition.

2                   And so what we're asking for is, at  
3           a minimum, that the permit system get  
4           put on the ballot to be voted on at the  
5           next meeting. We've talked to  
6           Mr. Hartzog about that, and I think that  
7           is a logical choice. South Coffee  
8           County has already been banned, so it's  
9           pushed it up on us.

10                   The permit system doesn't take away  
11           the rights of dog hunters. It just  
12           forces them to police themselves in a  
13           way that's appropriate manner for that  
14           method of hunting. It gives the  
15           wildlife officers the ability to review  
16           the permits ahead of time and see where  
17           the land is and understand where the  
18           permits -- and it can identify conflicts  
19           ahead of time.

20                   So we really strongly request,  
21           Mr. Hartzog and the Board, that that be  
22           put on the ballot today to be voted on  
23           because it's -- it's jeopardizing our

1           tradition and our property and our  
2           property rights. And we really  
3           sincerely appreciate that.

4                     Also, we'd like to ask for special  
5           consideration in the permit system to  
6           establish a reasonable buffer zone --

7   MS. JONES: Time.

8   MR. GRANGER: -- on that property, a one-mile  
9           radius around our property so that these  
10          problems don't continue to occur.

11   CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Granger.  
12           Thank you, Mr. Brown.

13                     Okay. The next speaker -- and  
14          excuse me on the name -- Stephen  
15          Minhinnette.

16   MR. MINHINNETTE: Good morning. My name is  
17          Steve Minhinnette. I'm from Mobile.  
18          And I'm here today to talk about the  
19          dog-hunting problems we're having in  
20          Butler County.

21                     Our sentiment is the same as the  
22          previous two speakers here. We have  
23          basically the same problems at our

1 place. It's been an ongoing issue for  
2 many, many years. We've tried to work  
3 with them. We've tried to work through  
4 them. It never ends. They have no  
5 regard for anybody else and we're tired  
6 of it.

7 We've been in contact with  
8 Mr. Hartzog, who's also our  
9 representative. It's Butler County.  
10 The southeastern portion of Butler  
11 County doesn't allow dog hunting south  
12 of Highway 106 and east of I-65. You  
13 know, we would love to continue that to  
14 the rest of the county. Go ahead and  
15 extend it to the western portion. At  
16 the very least, put them on the permit  
17 system. Make them be accountable for  
18 what they're doing.

19 We've got problems. And I stood up  
20 here last year and asked for y'all's  
21 help, and we didn't get anything. You  
22 know, maybe this year is our year. We'd  
23 appreciate any consideration that y'all

1           would all consider to us. Thanks a lot.

2           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Steve.

3           The next speaker is Steve Pierce.

4           MR. PIERCE: Thank y'all very much. Thank  
5           you, Mr. Chairman.

6           Gentlemen, dog hunting, true. Not  
7           condemning dog hunters, but when they  
8           get to where they don't have respect for  
9           theirselves or nobody else, it's time  
10          to -- somebody to say something.

11          I don't try and condemn the dog  
12          hunters. Used to be one. Loved it.  
13          But at least we done it with respect for  
14          everybody else. The ones you got -- and  
15          all of them down around home -- I'm from  
16          Andalusia, Alabama -- are not that way.  
17          You've got a few -- just like anything  
18          else, a couple of bad apples rot the  
19          whole barrel. It's not right.

20          I've talked with the people in  
21          Enterprise. They said -- you know, and  
22          it's -- south of 84 is dog -- open dog  
23          hunting. North of 84 they got to be

1 permitted. I'm not saying that's right  
2 or wrong. Something needs to be done  
3 because it is -- it's dangerous for  
4 stalk hunters to go get in a tree stand,  
5 a shooting house, a blind, whatever.  
6 When you got people running on paper  
7 company land and they come right next to  
8 the boundary line to turn their dogs  
9 out, it's not the dog's fault. The dog  
10 can't read the property line. But when  
11 they do it -- and, you know, that's  
12 blatantly turning them out on private  
13 land. That's wrong. That's dead  
14 wrong.

15 I don't know what the solution is.  
16 I wished I did. Y'all got a hell of a  
17 job. I commend you for doing it.

18 And another thing, I have been in  
19 contact with our game warden. He has my  
20 cell phone number in his cell phone.  
21 I've told him about it. I've complained  
22 about it, groaned about it, whatever you  
23 want to call it, about the night hunting

1           where they go by and kill bucks, take  
2           the horns off and throw the whole  
3           carcass out beside the road. Seven  
4           carcasses in five weeks in the same  
5           area. That's ridiculous. There's no  
6           excuse in it, gentlemen, none.

7                     I wished I knew the answer to the  
8           problem. I'm asking somebody smarter  
9           than me to answer it, please.

10          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: What's your area,  
11                     Mr. Pierce? What county?

12          MR. PIERCE: Covington County.

13          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Covington County. Whose  
14                     area is that?

15                     Mr. Hartzog, if you'd look at that,  
16           please, sir. I'm sorry, Mr. Hartzog.  
17           I'm not trying to pick on you.

18                     Mr. Pierce, thank you very much.

19          MR. PIERCE: Thank you. Thank you, gentlemen.

20          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Excuse me. The  
21                     Commissioner would like to make a  
22           comment.

23          COMMISSIONER GUY: You brought up a good -- if

1 I could -- and it may apply to you. I  
2 know there was a TV report about  
3 carcasses being thrown on the side of  
4 the road, deer carcasses. And I don't  
5 know if that's what you're referring to  
6 or not.

7 MR. PIERCE: I'm not sure.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: But, you know, folks, it  
9 just brings a bad name on what we do and  
10 what we love when we allow that to  
11 happen. We need to police ourselves so  
12 that if you know who does that kind of  
13 thing, you report them. It's not  
14 helping what we're all about when you've  
15 got people that are creating a worse  
16 public image of us because of the sport  
17 that we like, deer hunting, and they're  
18 throwing carcasses on the side of the  
19 road and then the news stations are  
20 reporting it and covering it. And it  
21 just comes back to all of us.

22 So I know that I saw a report here  
23 in Montgomery, a major news channel, and

1           it embarrassed me. And I just -- I just  
2           want to encourage everybody here that if  
3           they are aware of that kind of thing  
4           going on, report it to our officials,  
5           our game wardens. And if you know those  
6           kind of people, make them feel -- make  
7           them feel badly about it. I mean, make  
8           them not want to do it anymore, whatever  
9           you need to do. I mean, that's what I  
10          would ask of you.

11         CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Pierce.

12         MR. PIERCE: Thank you, sir.

13                 One more thing too. It's a problem  
14                 with -- like I say, the carcasses being  
15                 throwed out, that's creating coyote  
16                 problems. You know, I mean, it's giving  
17                 them something to multiply on. And  
18                 people throwing them in the creeks,  
19                 that -- I don't know how you feel about  
20                 that, Mr. Chairman, but it makes me mad  
21                 as hell.

22         CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: No. It's horrible,  
23                 absolutely horrible.

1           COMMISSIONER GUY: We've got people that want  
2           to eat those deer. We have a Hunters  
3           Helping the Hungry program that we  
4           donate money to to process it. They  
5           don't need to be thrown in the ditches  
6           when there are people out there that  
7           need to get that food from our food  
8           bank. Thank you.

9           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

10          MR. PIERCE: Thank you.

11          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is Frank  
12           Sapp and, also, his wife Jacqueline.

13          MS. SAPP: He's hard of hearing. That's why  
14           I'm talking.

15          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: You go ahead.

16          MS. SAPP: We have some land in --

17          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the microphone,  
18           please.

19          MS. SAPP: My name is Jacquelyn Sapp, and we  
20           have some land in Geneva County and  
21           Coffee County. And we've owned that  
22           since 2000, I think. We bought it in  
23           2000, and ever since we've bought it

1 dogs have run it. You can go out there  
2 and you can see dog tracks, deer tracks  
3 on all our food plots, everything.

4 The Coffee County one stopped two or  
5 three years ago. So they moved down to  
6 the back on the management area, up  
7 against the management area. And they  
8 put them in back there now, and they run  
9 down the back of it.

10 So he's -- he got two deer in 12  
11 years still hunting. They -- we hear  
12 them shooting constant and the dogs  
13 running constant, and we'd like to have  
14 something done about that. I think that  
15 they're not even supposed to be on the  
16 Coffee County part. We have 20 in  
17 Coffee and 80 in Geneva.

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, ma'am. Thank you  
19 very much.

20 Mr. Hartzog, if you'll take note,  
21 please, sir.

22 MR. HARTZOG: Sir?

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's in your area

1           again.

2                   Thank y'all very much.

3       MS. SAPP:   They also -- one of our friends  
4                   caught two of their dogs on there and  
5                   took them to them.   The name was Steve  
6                   (inaudible).   And I told the game warden  
7                   about this.   And he told -- he told my  
8                   friend that he would put them anywhere  
9                   he wanted to.   He told them not to put  
10                  them back on our property, and he told  
11                  him that he'd put them where he wanted  
12                  to.

13       CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE:   Thank you, Mr. and  
14                   Ms. Sapp.

15       MR. SAPP:   One of the gentlemen that run the  
16                   dogs in our property, he told my  
17                   neighbor that --

18       MS. SAPP:   I told them.

19       MR. SAPP:   Okay.   I'm sorry.   I can't hear.

20       CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE:   That's all right.   Thank  
21                   you, Mr. Sapp.

22                   The next speaker is Jerry Alford.  
23                   Who's the other one coming?

1 MR. ALFORD: Jim Dye.

2 All right. I'm Jerry Alford,  
3 vice-president of C & W Hunting Club,  
4 northern Greene County. We are a  
5 dog-hunting club. We have 30 families  
6 involved in our club. It's not a  
7 membership. It's a family-oriented  
8 situation.

9 We turn loose dogs every Saturday  
10 and Sunday. No dogs is turned loose on  
11 our property without tracking systems.  
12 We know where our dogs are. We don't --  
13 we have rules to keep dogs from being  
14 turned loose within no closer than a  
15 hundred yards of our property lines. We  
16 try to do our dog hunting the right way,  
17 and we support dog hunting for our  
18 community.

19 MR. DYE: And to reiterate, my name is Jim  
20 Dye. We do try to hunt the right way.  
21 We employ the tracking systems. We  
22 lease property and set it up strictly as  
23 buffer zones on the outer edges of our

1 property to give buffers so that we  
2 don't -- to keep our dogs from getting  
3 on somebody else. We have agreements  
4 with a couple of landowners not to run  
5 in certain times of day during -- during  
6 the peak still hunting, mornings and  
7 afternoons. We stay away from those  
8 areas. We keep our dogs away from those  
9 areas.

10 We enjoy dog hunting. We love it.  
11 It's what we do. And, like I said, I  
12 implore anybody that has a complaint  
13 against us -- and we heard that there  
14 were some, but none of them were ever  
15 documented -- you know, to come talk to  
16 us. If there's an issue, we're grown  
17 men. We're not children. We'll be glad  
18 to sit down and talk and try to work out  
19 any situation or any problem and come  
20 to, you know, an agreement like we have  
21 with some of our other adjoining  
22 property owners.

23 Like I said, we -- we just try to do

1           it right, and we want to keep doing it  
2           right. And I encourage and challenge  
3           other dog hunters to do the same thing.  
4           If you've got a problem -- if you've got  
5           a dog hunter that's a problem, cull your  
6           nuts, you know, do something about it so  
7           he doesn't ruin it for the rest of us.

8           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The lack of y'all having a  
9           district representative right now, I  
10          will -- during the district board  
11          reports I'm going to address y'all's  
12          area.

13          MR. DYE: Okay. Thank you very much.

14          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank y'all.

15          MR. DYE: And if you can address that hyena  
16          hunting season.

17                               (Brief interruption.)

18          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next speaker  
19          will be Mr. Billy Bowden.

20                               And if the next speaker would be  
21          getting ready, Christa Bragg. If she  
22          would get ready, maybe we can save some  
23          time here.

1                   Mr. Bowden.

2           MR. BOWDEN: Yes, sir. My name is Billy  
3                   Bowden, and I live on Sewell Road in  
4                   Titus, Alabama. I hunt with a  
5                   dog-hunting club. We have 3500 acres.  
6                   Our land joins these other fellows that  
7                   have the petition.

8                   If they want a petition, we can get  
9                   all the landowners up there to sign it  
10                  because they're the ones that let the  
11                  hogs on us. They come from across the  
12                  creek out of a pen. You can see the pen  
13                  from our property. And we are overrun  
14                  with hogs. We have tried to trap them,  
15                  and all we can do is get dogs on them.  
16                  We killed four stalk hunting. We killed  
17                  21 with dogs. Then they moved. And  
18                  it's just a problem. They're worried  
19                  about the dogs, but if we don't have no  
20                  dogs, the hogs is -- we're not going to  
21                  have any deer. They're going to take  
22                  care of the deer.

23                  They turned out over a hundred

1 hogs. They said they got out of the  
2 pen. But our whole land is overrun with  
3 hogs. We had a seminar on it.  
4 Mr. Johnson and Mr. Jaworski, they had a  
5 meeting at Titus on it. And I own -- me  
6 and my family have a hundred acres on  
7 Sewell Road where they live at. So it's  
8 not like we don't have land. And we  
9 have a tracking system on our dogs, and  
10 we try to keep them off everybody's  
11 land. We do not turn them loose after  
12 three o'clock in the evening. And in  
13 the mornings we do not turn out before  
14 8:30 to give stalk hunters -- if we get  
15 close to them, they'll have a chance to  
16 hunt. We won't bother them. There's  
17 big landowners next to us that's glad  
18 for us. Even the probate judge's land  
19 is close to us, and he wants us to kill  
20 them hogs. But like some people said,  
21 we -- I wouldn't think we can even  
22 control them. There's too many of  
23 them. We have a problem, a big

1           problem.

2           If it's not any deer -- we didn't  
3           have this problem till we got a cutover  
4           right over behind these people's  
5           houses. And that's where all the hogs  
6           was at. A six or seven-year-old cutover  
7           just like this with briars. And that's  
8           where all those hogs was hiding at. We  
9           went in there and started running hogs.  
10          Here they come out. They started  
11          cussing us. And then that went into,  
12          you know, different things. And I never  
13          went back down there no more. I didn't  
14          want to be cussed no more. I never went  
15          back down there. Let somebody else go.

16          But, anyway, that's the problem  
17          we've got. And, you know, we try to do  
18          right. We got a tracking system. We  
19          spent \$3,000 on a tracking system to  
20          keep our dogs off of everybody's land.  
21          Them collars is \$200 apiece. A tracking  
22          system is \$400 apiece. And we bought  
23          four of them. And that's all I got to

1 say. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Bowden.

3 The next speaker is Christa Bragg.

4 MS. BRAGG: My daughter, Madison, and Jerry  
5 Temple are going to come with me.

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Who is coming with you?

7 MS. BRAGG: Jerry Temple.

8 MR. TEMPLE: Jerry Temple.

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Hold on. Let me find  
10 you.

11 The very last page, Board.

12 Okay. Go ahead.

13 MR. TEMPLE: Okay. My name is Jerry Temple.

14 I'm a member of Red Oak. I have been  
15 for 23 years. I'm also the  
16 secretary/treasurer for the Coffee  
17 County Dog Hunters Association, that  
18 chapter.

19 I thought we had a pretty uneventful  
20 year this year till right at the end of  
21 the season when I start hearing a lot of  
22 rumors that I didn't hear all through  
23 the year. So I got together and talked

1 with some people.

2 During the year, about the second or  
3 third week into the season, we did have  
4 an event where a couple of dogs got  
5 across a paved highway on the eastern  
6 end of our property. We hunt about  
7 4900 acres all in one block. It's  
8 bordered by the river on the north side,  
9 84 on the south side, a county road --  
10 paved road on the east side, and a dirt  
11 road on the west end. They did get onto  
12 another hunting club that's a stalk and  
13 still hunting club.

14 Myself and one of our associates,  
15 the man who owned the dog, we had went  
16 to the southeast end of these people's  
17 property tracking those dogs. We  
18 weren't able to call one of the dogs out  
19 that afternoon. We came up on a couple  
20 of the members there at one of the gates  
21 and talked to them about it. And the  
22 man said he saw the dog and the deer  
23 that morning. He said, if the deer had

1 had one more point, I would have  
2 harvested it. He was a big deer, huge  
3 deer. They only shot  
4 three-and-a-half-year-olds or six-points  
5 or better or something like that.

6 So, anyway, they were not very  
7 excited about the situation, and so they  
8 went on and left. We were able to call  
9 one of the dogs out that afternoon to  
10 the paved road, and we tracked that  
11 other dog all that afternoon. The dog  
12 was pretty much in the same spot within  
13 a 40-acre area there. Never could get  
14 her to come out. Mr. German decided  
15 she'd spend the night that night, so he  
16 had to leave her.

17 The next day we went over there and  
18 checked her at daylight, and she was  
19 right there in the same area. So we  
20 went on and made the first hunt that  
21 morning and came back over there that  
22 afternoon. The dog was -- well,  
23 actually, it was around 10:30,

1 11 o'clock in the morning. Mr. German  
2 decided that -- seeing the gate was open  
3 there -- and, of course, we knew whose  
4 hunting property it was and understand  
5 they lease it. They lease it from the  
6 same people we lease 1,034 acres from.  
7 So didn't think that it was that big of  
8 a deal.

9 Mr. German decided to go in and get  
10 his dog. He's 68 years old. He's got a  
11 bad knee. He couldn't walk in there.  
12 He couldn't get the dog out. So thought  
13 that they might have the dog tied to a  
14 tree. That club has been notorious for  
15 catching dogs and not letting people  
16 have their dogs when they got them.  
17 And, matter of fact, several years ago  
18 two dogs were killed over there. The  
19 man did not get prosecuted because the  
20 Alabama Dog Hunters Association decided  
21 to step back and let his father cover  
22 the deal and decided not to pursue it  
23 any further.

1           Anyway, he went in there and got the  
2           dog in ten minutes. This man got  
3           upset. He called the sheriff. The  
4           sheriff come around --

5           MS. JONES: Time.

6           MR. TEMPLE: -- there. He talked to the man.  
7           And it wasn't that big of a deal, I  
8           didn't think. But one incident, didn't  
9           see them the rest of the year.

10           I just want y'all to understand  
11           something. I know Grady has probably  
12           had some good retrievers. A dog to some  
13           of these people ain't no different than  
14           this young'un right here. If this girl  
15           knew that young'un was down there on  
16           that property, she wouldn't have to call  
17           nobody. That's her young'un. And there  
18           are some dogs here -- I squalled worse  
19           over some deer dogs that I've had than  
20           some of my family members. That's how  
21           much these people care about their  
22           dogs. And I'm the same way. I ain't no  
23           different.

1           But I want you to look at these  
2           issues. Do what you think you got to  
3           do, but I wish you'd take everything  
4           into consideration because it's going to  
5           be an economical impact on this state.  
6           The economy, the way it is, from the  
7           city government to Capitol Hill, y'all  
8           know what's going on. Y'all cut a  
9           thousand people out of license and gas  
10          and everything we buy in this state and  
11          it's going to have an economic impact.

12                 Now, I can play golf. It don't  
13          matter. I can play golf nine months.

14          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Temple, I'd like to  
15          hear from Christa, please, sir, and the  
16          board would too. Christa.

17          MS. BRAGG: Okay. I come --

18          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: And, Christa, please  
19          introduce who's with you.

20          MS. BRAGG: I'm Christa Bragg, and this is my  
21          daughter, Madison, and she's nine. And  
22          I come to you as a mother, a wife, a  
23          hunter, and also a veterinarian. So I'm

1 a veterinarian who loves to dog hunt.  
2 Madison has dog hunted since she could  
3 walk. Got her first gun at five. And  
4 she loves to hunt.

5 And what we do up there is -- you  
6 have a red packet that I put together  
7 for you. It's got pictures of the  
8 kids. The kids are involved. It's not  
9 one of those things where wives and  
10 children only come one weekend a  
11 month -- I mean, one weekend a hunting  
12 season. We are there every step of the  
13 way with our husbands, our families.  
14 There's a letter in there from my child  
15 about what dog hunting means to her and  
16 several of the other children.

17 And then not only is it dog season  
18 and hunting season we're talking about.  
19 During the summertime of the year,  
20 there's four-wheeling, there's fishing,  
21 there's -- all of our children are  
22 involved in that club year around. And  
23 I would hate to see something like that

1 taken away from our children and them  
2 not get to grow up in that same  
3 situation.

4 I'm 40. My husband has been a  
5 member of that club since he was as old  
6 as her. So that's our family tradition  
7 is those dog-hunting -- and that's what  
8 we do. She -- she just enjoys it. The  
9 kids enjoy it.

10 And then something else I wanted to  
11 touch on, too, is at the end you'll see  
12 a GPS map. You know, we do what we can  
13 do to keep our dogs off other people's  
14 property. We have invested over \$2,000  
15 in the new GPS system. So I know where  
16 my dogs are every five seconds. There's  
17 a -- on the next page there's an update  
18 that shows you just a few minutes of  
19 what it does. Every five seconds I know  
20 where my dog's at, what it's doing. And  
21 if it gets close to a highway, we stop  
22 hunting. We're done. We're going to  
23 get our dogs. If it's going off our

1           property, we're going to get our dogs.  
2           Our dogs come first. And other people,  
3           their property is -- we do our best to  
4           keep them off of other people's  
5           property. And I just wanted to let  
6           y'all know that. I mean, we just -- we  
7           love it and it's a family thing, so ...

8           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Dr. Bragg, thank you very  
9           much.

10                        Madison, what does your shirt say  
11           for the board?

12           MS. BRAGG: It says, trust me, I hunt like a  
13           girl.

14           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank y'all very much.

15           MS. BRAGG: Thank y'all. I also went to the  
16           University.

17           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is  
18           Mr. Dick Dunn.

19           MR. DUNN: Thank you for giving me this  
20           opportunity to speak. I'm a dog  
21           hunter. I'm Dick Dunn from Tuscaloosa,  
22           Alabama. I hunt north Greene County  
23           primarily. Our club is Spring Hill

1           Hunting Club. We adjoin C & W.

2                   We have a large mass of land that we  
3 dog hunt, and we do everything possible  
4 to keep our dogs contained on our  
5 property. And we do a pretty good job  
6 of it, but occasionally we do have one  
7 to get off our land.

8                   And we're pretty much -- we help  
9 each other out catching dogs. We run  
10 tracking collars on all our dogs. And  
11 used to, I had as many as 16 dogs.  
12 Well, I've cut down. I'm hunting five  
13 dogs. I can manage five dogs, me and my  
14 son together. And we keep them  
15 contained.

16                   I've heard talk about permit systems  
17 or, you know, doing away with dog  
18 hunting in different areas. Well, I  
19 think -- you know, I've dog hunted since  
20 I was a young boy. I've got a grandson  
21 that's 12 years old that dog hunts with  
22 me. He is the fifth generation of dog  
23 hunters. I grew up in south Alabama.

1           As a boy, we always had deer, and I  
2           appreciate that. And I appreciate what  
3           y'all do for us to make sure that we'll  
4           have deer in my -- on into my life  
5           span.

6           But just consider before y'all make  
7           a decision. Because if you get  
8           complaints, try to get the dog hunter  
9           that's involved in it and the property  
10          owner together and hear both sides of  
11          the story at once. Don't get this  
12          hearsay over here and hearsay over  
13          here. Get a neutral person to sit down  
14          and talk to these people and try to work  
15          it out. Do something. Because I'd hate  
16          to see it lost. I'll probably quit  
17          hunting and probably go to rabbit  
18          hunting if we could get December.

19          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Dunn.

20                 All right. The next speaker is  
21                 Kaelyn Fillingim.

22                 Y'all better get ready.

23          MS. FILLINGIM: Hello. My name is Kaelyn

1           Fillingim. I'm 14 years old and from  
2           Coffee County, Alabama. I'm here in the  
3           support of dog hunting.

4           My dad, Troy, has spoken at these  
5           meetings before and is an avid dog  
6           hunter. He and I have hunted together  
7           ever since I can remember. We do  
8           everything possible to stay in  
9           compliance with the state's rules and  
10          regulations. This year alone my dad has  
11          spent \$6,000 on GPS collars with Google  
12          Earth, shock collars, and whistle-broke  
13          dogs, not including hunting dues and  
14          food plots.

15          We own several acres of our own land  
16          and are actively involved in more than  
17          one dog-hunting lease. We are a member  
18          of Victoria Hunting Club which was  
19          started in 1968. Our club still  
20          includes seven of its founding members,  
21          three of which are in their mid 70s and  
22          hunt every day dog season has to offer.  
23          We also have several youth that hunt in

1           our club and have killed numerous deer  
2           throughout the season.

3           We cherish our dogs dearly and hope  
4           that we can continue our traditions for  
5           generations to come. We are very aware  
6           of the opposition that is here today.  
7           It is a known fact there were several  
8           violations wrote to still hunters in our  
9           area this past season. Victoria Hunting  
10          Club had no violations, and we strive to  
11          keep it that way. Many of our  
12          opposition do not hunt. Some own less  
13          than 10 acres of land and several don't  
14          own any land in our area. They're just  
15          involved in hunting leases, not to  
16          mention the ones that live out of  
17          state.

18          We personally own property that land  
19          bordering ours is being hunted by still  
20          hunters. An example of this is one of  
21          our co-hunters witnessed a gun barrel  
22          protruding out of a shooting house  
23          facing our property. This shooting

1 house is bordering the property line.  
2 We as dog hunters are aware there are  
3 still-hunting complaints as well as  
4 dog-hunting complaints.

5 It is evident that our state is  
6 struggling financially and the budget  
7 for our Conservation Department is more  
8 than likely declining, although a game  
9 warden flew a state plane on  
10 January 14th for approximately two hours  
11 over where three dog clubs exist. This  
12 amazes me that if my state can't afford  
13 to buy me a new textbook, how in the  
14 world can we afford to fly a state plane  
15 for two hours.

16 We have never witnessed any other  
17 hunters at these meetings having to  
18 fight for their rights. It is evident  
19 that other hunting practices are getting  
20 complaints and violations in this  
21 state. Is there any explanations why  
22 they're not having to fight for their  
23 rights?

1           To you, our opposition, you will  
2           need us in the next hunting battle. It  
3           will not be with the dog hunter but with  
4           the anti-hunter. I personally feel if  
5           our dog-hunting rights are expelled, we  
6           will not be here to help you in your  
7           next fight.

8           And as far as the permit system, if  
9           our dog hunting has to go to a permit  
10          system, then shouldn't still hunters  
11          have to go to a permit system?

12       MS. JONES: Time.

13       MS. FILLINGIM: So my question to you today  
14          is --

15       CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Kaelyn, you continue.

16       MS. FILLINGIM: So my question to you today  
17          is, why are there not disciplinary  
18          actions being taken in all forms of  
19          hunting?

20       CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Kaelyn, what -- y'all hold  
21          the applause.

22                Kaelyn, what school do you go to?

23       MS. FILLINGIM: I go to Zion Chapel High

1 School in Coffee County, Alabama.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Are you on the debate  
3 team?

4 MS. FILLINGIM: I am. I have been.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good job. Thank you.

6 MS. FILLINGIM: But could you answer my  
7 question, please?

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you. Mr. Hartzog is  
9 all over it. Thank you, Kaelyn.

10 The next speaker is Lamar Giles.

11 If we would come to order, please.

12 Mr. Giles.

13 MR. GILES: Somehow I knew I was going to have  
14 to follow her.

15 Mr. Chairman, Board Members, my name  
16 is Lamar Giles. I'm secretary/treasurer  
17 of Old Union Point Hunting Club in east  
18 Chilton County. A brief history of our  
19 club.

20 It was started in the early '70s,  
21 and it was incorporated in 1978 -- I  
22 mean, May of 1977. We've been in this  
23 same location for 40 years as a deer --

1 dog deer hunting club. And in the 40  
2 years, as far as we know, we've had one  
3 citation from the game warden. We've  
4 had very little problems. Most of the  
5 people that lived around our clubs were  
6 the people we grew up with and our  
7 neighbors. And we -- last -- this past  
8 season we leased and had permits on 4500  
9 acres of land. We had 36 members, plus  
10 children and grandchildren under 18  
11 years of age that hunt free. We had 36  
12 paying members.

13 And two of our rules that --  
14 probably the most important is, first of  
15 all, we allow no alcoholic beverages on  
16 our hunting club. And the second one is  
17 the rule that we abide by state laws.

18 Now, this past year y'all voted to  
19 put us on the permit system. And we did  
20 all of the paperwork, sent it in to  
21 Northport. And they had -- they asked  
22 us to meet with a couple of the  
23 conservation officers. Roy Wilson,

1           who's our president, and I met with  
2           Cliff Robinson and Ms. Kathy, who is the  
3           local game warden. And they explained  
4           the rules under the permit system. And,  
5           thereafter, we called a meeting of the  
6           club members and went over the rules  
7           with them. And we have done our best to  
8           comply.

9           And we're just all family men and  
10          members of the community, and we just  
11          ask that we get to hunt the -- you know,  
12          our traditional way within the law.

13          Thank you.

14          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Giles.

15                  Mr. Don Knight.

16          MR. HARTZOG: Mr. Chairman?

17          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, sir.

18          MR. HARTZOG: Can I ask one question?

19          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hartzog. Mr. Giles,  
20                  if you could come back to the  
21                  microphone.

22          MR. HARTZOG: Does the permit system work?

23          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Please hold your

1           comments. Only the speaker speaks.

2           MR. GILES: You know, it was our first year,

3                   and I don't know if we've had any

4                   complaints. I haven't heard of any.

5                   But we're going to try to make it work.

6           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Giles.

7                   The next speaker is Mr. Don Knight.

8           MR. KNIGHT: Dan, I'm trying to decide whether

9                   to run that little girl for governor or

10                   give her my job as the state president

11                   of the Dog Hunters Association. She

12                   done an excellent job up here.

13                   I'm Don Knight, and I'm the state

14                   president of the Alabama Dog Hunters

15                   Association. I live in Piedmont,

16                   Alabama, but I hunt in Barbour County.

17                   Mr. Grady, you have been thrown

18                   under the bus today. I want to

19                   apologize to you. I do know about all

20                   these problems. About two weeks ago I

21                   got me a pacemaker and defibrillator put

22                   in my chest, and I'll be back trying to

23                   help you here just as quick as I can;

1           okay?

2                   I want to start with thanking the  
3           Conservation Department, whoever it was  
4           that gave a production crew out of  
5           Wisconsin my name. They wanted to come  
6           down and film a "Dog Hunting in Alabama"  
7           issue for the Outdoor Channel. They --  
8           we worked it out. They came down the  
9           6th, 7th, and 8th of January. We filmed  
10          an issue for national television on dog  
11          hunting in Alabama. When I get a copy  
12          of this, I will send each one of you a  
13          copy.

14                   What I would like for you to do is  
15          look at it. This is the way we run dog  
16          hunting at my club and a lot of other  
17          clubs. I've heard a lot of things said  
18          today that go along with it.

19                   What I'd like for you to look at,  
20          though, is the fellowship that we have  
21          in our hunting club, the number of  
22          people we have in our hunting club. We  
23          had about 65, 70 people there that day.

1           Also, I want you to look at the kids.  
2           Take a look on this tape. It shows how  
3           many young'uns we have down there  
4           hunting with us. Also, take a look at  
5           how many senior citizens, like myself,  
6           we've got down there hunting.

7                   Gentlemen, you can't throw this  
8           away. You just can't do it. It's part  
9           of this country, and we need to keep it  
10          going. If you're going to -- I've been  
11          at this -- I'm 68 years old. I've been  
12          around a long time, been hunting since I  
13          was a little baby. You got to  
14          understand, if you don't get these  
15          youngsters between eight and 15, you're  
16          going to lose them. I'm telling you.  
17          I've seen it over the years. If you  
18          don't get them between eight and 15 --  
19          because those hormones kick in when they  
20          get 15 or 14 or something like that and,  
21          buddy, their interest is not hunting;  
22          okay?

23                   So just pay attention to that. Look

1 at our issues. A trophy hunt for our  
2 club is very simple. When I have a  
3 granddad, a dad, and a son and daughter  
4 there all hunting, that is a trophy  
5 hunt. Period. I love it. We try to  
6 have as many generations as we can.

7 On this filming of this show, we  
8 gave them a great show. On the Saturday  
9 that they filmed it, we killed two nice  
10 big nine-points and a nice big  
11 eight-point. We had cameras mounted on  
12 the back of my dog. Showed them jump  
13 the nine-point and it showed them going  
14 through the woods.

15 MS. JONES: Time.

16 MR. KNIGHT: Yes, ma'am.

17 Showed them going through the  
18 woods. And a 13-year-old kid kills the  
19 nine-point. It's wonderful. I'll wind  
20 it up.

21 Gentlemen, all I ask you to do is  
22 look at our tape on this hunt. Think  
23 very seriously before you put somebody

1           on a permit system if that may take them  
2           out of the thing or do away with any  
3           part of their dog hunting. It is  
4           important.

5                     And can I just say one more thing,  
6           Dan?

7           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very quickly, Don.

8           MR. KNIGHT: Very quickly. Okay.

9                     That man that came down here from  
10           Wisconsin that was with me, the purpose  
11           of this show -- it's going to be  
12           Destination Whitetail. Excuse me. And  
13           what he was telling me the purpose of  
14           these shows are -- he's going all over  
15           the country filming shows of various  
16           ways to harvest deer. What he's trying  
17           to do -- what this whole organization is  
18           trying to do is get the hunters to stop  
19           fighting among themselves. When we hear  
20           things like we heard down here today,  
21           we're fighting among ourselves. We are  
22           the animal rights activist's best  
23           friend. We're doing his job for him.

1           Let's don't do that, people. I don't  
2           care if it's spear-chunking. Let's keep  
3           the people hunting. Thank you.

4           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Knight.

5                     Okay. The next speaker is Rhett  
6           McCollough.

7           MR. McCOLLOUGH: Good morning. I'm speaking  
8           on behalf of dog hunting in Coffee  
9           County, Elba, Alabama, specifically.

10          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Move up a little closer to  
11          the microphone, please.

12          MR. McCOLLOUGH: One thing I'd like to say is  
13          that we do all we possibly can to hunt  
14          the right way. With the aid of the  
15          electronic devices on dogs now, we are a  
16          lot better than what we used to be.

17                     Now, with that said, it seems that  
18          I'm here again today to defend some kind  
19          of restrictions put on dog hunting. The  
20          main reason for this is because of a  
21          hunting club that has already been  
22          represented here today and a game  
23          warden. And I'm going to read because I

1 can probably do it quicker.

2 It seems that we're here again today  
3 to defend a method of hunting that has  
4 been constant in Coffee County since the  
5 1960s. The main reason, again, is  
6 because of the game warden and a few  
7 out-of-state hunters that belong to the  
8 Hit and Miss Hunting Club. The game  
9 official has said many times dating back  
10 all the way to 2003 that he would like  
11 to see dog hunting done away with in  
12 Coffee County. And that's one of the  
13 main reasons I'm here today.

14 He has continuously caused  
15 controversy among dog hunters along with  
16 landowners versus stalk hunters since he  
17 was assigned to Coffee County. He  
18 cannot be trusted, and I know that from  
19 talking to him face to face. He'll tell  
20 you one thing and do the opposite. I  
21 strongly suggest, along with all the  
22 other hunters in Coffee County, that he  
23 be removed from Coffee County if he

1           dislikes dog hunting that much.

2                   And can I recognize a couple of  
3           people?

4           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you'll address the  
5           Chair. Who would you like to recognize?

6           MR. McCOLLOUGH: The dog hunters from Coffee  
7           County. Just have them stand.

8           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you're a dog hunter  
9           from Autauga County, please stand up.

10          MR. McCOLLOUGH: Coffee.

11          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Coffee County.

12                   Very good. Thank you very much.

13          MR. McCOLLOUGH: Thank y'all. I didn't  
14          realize that many were here.

15                   The Hit and Miss Hunting Club has  
16          been in our county for about 20 years.  
17          Awhile ago they reported that they've  
18          been there for about 40. That's not  
19          true.

20          MS. JONES: Time.

21          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you'll sum it up,  
22          please, sir.

23          MR. McCOLLOUGH: Okay. We've been there since

1           1960. We've been doing the same thing  
2           we do every year just like we do it  
3           every year. Except, like I said, we  
4           have improved. We do everything we  
5           possibly can to abide by the rules and  
6           regulations placed upon us. Nobody in  
7           Coffee County is for any kind of  
8           restrictions placed on dog hunting.

9           The club that was represented here  
10          today is surrounded -- I mean,  
11          surrounded by dog-hunting clubs. The  
12          two people here that spoke today, they  
13          knew what they were getting into when  
14          they came there. It's just like  
15          applying for a job. You know what the  
16          job entails when you apply for it. They  
17          applied for that hunting club. They  
18          knew there was dogs surrounding it when  
19          they came there.

20          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. McCollough, thank you  
21          very much.

22                 Okay. The next speaker will be  
23          Shaun Miller.

1 MR. MILLER: Good morning. My name is Shaun  
2 Miller. I live in Enterprise, Alabama.  
3 I'm here on behalf of dog hunting.

4 First of all, I've been here in this  
5 state probably six years. I grew up  
6 most of my life -- actually, 11 years  
7 I've been working at Fort Rucker. But I  
8 grew up most of the majority of my life  
9 in California where hunting is severely  
10 regulated and severely limited to people  
11 who have money. I was never afforded  
12 the opportunity to dog hunt until  
13 recently. I became a member of White  
14 Oak -- or White Flag.

15 I caution the board in regards to  
16 restricting dog hunting. It's the first  
17 time that I've had an opportunity to  
18 hunt with my son. And anybody I know  
19 that has small children, to keep their  
20 attention while you're hunting without  
21 some sort of gaming device in front of  
22 them is nearly impossible.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER IN AUDIENCE: Amen.

1 MR. MILLER: When I get --

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Withhold your comments  
3 from the gallery. Go ahead, please,  
4 sir.

5 MR. MILLER: When my son and I get out of the  
6 truck, the excitement is there. He is  
7 afforded the opportunity to hear the  
8 dogs run through the woods that I was  
9 never afforded as a child. And I wish  
10 that you guys would keep this for him as  
11 much as it is an enjoyment for me.  
12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

14 The next speaker is Susan Morrow.

15 MS. MORROW: Good morning or afternoon -- I  
16 don't know which it is now -- Chairman  
17 and Members of the Board. I'm Susan  
18 Morrow. I'm from Mobile County. I  
19 think y'all all know me except maybe the  
20 new ones.

21 I want to thank y'all so much for  
22 giving us those five dog days on  
23 management areas. That meant the world

1 to a lot of little kids and big kids.

2 And, yes, I brought you some more  
3 petitions. 923 names. Some of them is  
4 kids. But in your petitions there you  
5 will see one sheet that has some writing  
6 on it, and it tells you the next sheet  
7 has some ugly words wrote on it. What  
8 happened is the petition got left at  
9 Scotch Management Area, and the next  
10 stalk hunt, before I could pick it up,  
11 somebody that was in line wrote those  
12 ugly things on it about dog hunters. So  
13 I didn't -- the reason I included it was  
14 because I didn't feel like those people  
15 that had signed that sheet, their names  
16 should be excluded because somebody had  
17 done that.

18 But, anyway, I want to thank y'all.  
19 And I would like to ask y'all to  
20 consider adding another management area  
21 for dog hunting that has a lot of land.  
22 And, also, if you would consider looking  
23 at the Upper Delta, giving us two dog

1 days at the opening of deer season  
2 there, because it's usually dry. And as  
3 you know, the later it gets, the wetter  
4 it gets, so the gates get closed. We  
5 got to go in one time this year. So if  
6 we could have the last two days or add  
7 us two more days at the very beginning,  
8 then we could probably get in there  
9 because it's dry then.

10 So -- and I want to switch gears on  
11 y'all for just a minute. I want to talk  
12 about fishing -- saltwater fishing just  
13 a minute.

14 This past year -- and I think  
15 Dr. Shipp can verify this or he -- I  
16 know he's aware of it. During the  
17 Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo amberjack  
18 season was closed. They had to take the  
19 amberjack board out and put in another  
20 category, swordfish. And while we were  
21 all out there -- you know, if you fish  
22 this rodeo, you're going to deep water  
23 because you're out there to win prizes.

1           While we was out there fishing, we  
2           caught amberjack. That's all we  
3           caught. And we was not fishing for  
4           amberjack. But that's what we caught.  
5           Because they were hungry. And they were  
6           huge, 50- and 60-pound amberjack that we  
7           caught. And we bring them up. Had to  
8           turn them loose, because we could not  
9           keep them, and they died. And we did  
10          try to revive them.

11           So I would like to ask the board to  
12          look at having a special amberjack  
13          season for the Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo,  
14          just three days, because there's so many  
15          fish -- excuse me -- amberjack that was  
16          caught. Same thing happened. I'm sure  
17          Dr. Shipp can tell you. All the anglers  
18          I talked to and I saw out there, that's  
19          what it was.

20          MS. JONES: Time.

21          MS. MORROW: Thank y'all so much.

22          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Ms. Morrow.

23                 The next speaker is Debra Nicholson.

1 MS. NICHOLSON: I'll pass. It's already been  
2 said what I wanted to say.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much,  
4 Ms. Nicholson.

5 The next speaker is Wayne Parker.

6 MR. PARKER: Good morning, Commissioner Guy,  
7 Mr. Chairman, and Board Members. I'm a  
8 member of the Hurricane Creek and  
9 Victoria Hunting Club.

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the microphone  
11 so Tracye doesn't have such a hard time.

12 MR. PARKER: Good morning, men. I am a member  
13 of the Hurricane Creek and Victoria  
14 Hunting Club. I was born and raised in  
15 north Coffee County, hunted and fished  
16 all my life there.

17 Dog hunting in the community is a  
18 way of life. It is not just deer dogs.  
19 It is rabbit dogs, squirrel dogs, coon  
20 dogs, and lots of other sporting dogs.  
21 I also have bird dogs. I'm here to show  
22 my continued support for dog deer  
23 hunting.

1           We have five different clubs in  
2           north Coffee County, and all these clubs  
3           work in conjunction with -- in harmony  
4           and respect for each other. I have  
5           personally took the time to hunt with  
6           four of these clubs. I know what type  
7           people they are. I know how they are.  
8           I know y'all have been sent a package.  
9           None of these people is outlaws, believe  
10          me. A lot of them work with me at Fort  
11          Rucker and they have security  
12          clearances.

13          We follow the rules and regulations  
14          and all come together and implement  
15          them. All the dogs hunted in the club  
16          are required to have tracking collars or  
17          GPS collars. If one dog goes on one of  
18          the other properties -- we all have a  
19          standing commitment. All the clubs  
20          there, you're welcome to go in that club  
21          and get your dog. It's no problem. We  
22          have thousands of acres, many thousands,  
23          over 10,000. And that's the way we work

1 in harmony. That's the way we do it.

2 The only exception we have is with  
3 Hit and Miss Hunting Club, and they've  
4 been a problem since they been there.  
5 They're from Florida. They don't  
6 recognize it. And they talk about that  
7 nobody wants to come up here. No,  
8 that's not true. They stop and talk to  
9 me regular about turkey hunting and deer  
10 hunting. They tell me -- they -- and  
11 they say we've got three or four in our  
12 club and that's all that's really  
13 against the dog hunting, and I believe  
14 that. I believe that's what happened.

15 I have two daughters, also, from  
16 Zion Chapel High School, which y'all  
17 heard Kaelyn speak awhile ago. But I  
18 didn't bring them because I was afraid  
19 it would be more than y'all could bear.

20 So, you know, I mean, there is  
21 passion in it. She is about dog  
22 hunting. They were raised in it, and  
23 they love their dog hunting. And they

1           could tell you more about dogs than  
2           probably you gentlemen know, how they  
3           are and what they do.

4           I'm going to share a little story  
5           with you. On Sunday, January 22nd,  
6           2012, me and my 11-year-old daughter,  
7           Savannah, decided to go deer hunting.  
8           We stalk hunt and dog hunt. I told her  
9           it was getting late so we would not have  
10          time to go get in a stand. So we  
11          decided to set on the ground. We had  
12          been setting there for about 15 to 20  
13          minutes when a nice seven-point buck  
14          come through. We harvested a deer.

15          On the way home the conversation  
16          turned into hunting and fishing and the  
17          fun me and her had had and enjoyed on  
18          this trip. And I asked her did any of  
19          her friends in her grade hunt, and she  
20          said no. I was really surprised to hear  
21          this answer because she goes to a small  
22          school in Coffee County. I asked her  
23          why not, and she said because most of

1 her friends' parents do not have the  
2 money or land for them to hunt.

3 MS. JONES: Time.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Sum it up, if you would,  
5 Mr. Parker.

6 MR. PARKER: Okay.

7 But, anyway, to make this short and  
8 stuff, this is what we are forced with  
9 today as hunters. We have serious  
10 problems with our youth. I ask you as  
11 hunters, dog hunters, stand hunters,  
12 still hunters, and group hunters to get  
13 together and take a child hunting and  
14 quit criticizing how other people hunt.  
15 Because if we don't do something about  
16 it today, I feel we may not none hunt  
17 tomorrow.

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Parker.

19 Just set the microphone on the counter  
20 there, Mr. Parker.

21 The next speaker is Larry Sanders.

22 MR. SANDERS: My name is Larry Sanders. I'm  
23 from Pike County, Alabama, and I hunt in

1 Coffee County.

2 The topics I want to talk about  
3 today was we have the -- we have like  
4 the Wounded Warriors there in Coffee  
5 County, the county land. And we have --  
6 I have talked to the commissioner in  
7 Coffee County, in that area, the  
8 representative there, and he said he is  
9 not against any kind of dog hunting  
10 whatsoever. All he asks is that we  
11 maintain our dogs. We do the best of  
12 our ability to do that. Like  
13 everybody's -- everybody's got tracking  
14 units, tracking systems and tracking  
15 collars. We're all aware of that.

16 But the conservation officer down  
17 there is -- the dog hunter down there  
18 feels like he's harassed. We go  
19 hunting -- if you see a truck beside a  
20 road, it's not because we're hunting.  
21 Nine times out of ten we're looking for  
22 a dog, trying to catch our dogs up.

23 You know, it's -- I've had people in

1 Pike County come to me saying that  
2 they're going to -- you know, the game  
3 warden down there said he's going to  
4 outlaw the dog hunting. And that's the  
5 topic that I wanted to talk on.

6 We had -- we had one incidence. It  
7 was my dogs that went through. And the  
8 lady at the cabin had caught them, tied  
9 them up. When I -- I rode over there to  
10 get them and talked to them, and the man  
11 said, well, just do your best to keep  
12 them contained. You know, we did that.  
13 I talked to them.

14 When I got back out, the game warden  
15 down there, he was wanting to check  
16 trucks. You know, he -- we wasn't even  
17 hunting over there. We were just trying  
18 to catch their dogs which they had tied  
19 up, and I rode in there and got them.

20 But that's what I wanted to talk  
21 about today. And I want to thank y'all  
22 for letting me speak. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Sanders, who was the

1           representative you spoke with?

2           MR. SANDERS: Kim Evans, Coffee County.

3           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. If the board will  
4           note that.

5                     Okay. Very good. Thank you, sir.

6                     Okay. And our last speaker for the  
7           day, Mr. John Ward.

8           MR. WARD: Good morning, Commissioner. How  
9           are y'all?

10                    We hunt in Fayette County, Alabama.  
11           We got 9,500 acres. We got a good club  
12           there. We got tracking collars on our  
13           dogs. We know where they're at all the  
14           time. But we do honor stalk hunters in  
15           our club. We all get along as a  
16           family. In our youth hunt this year we  
17           had 40-something kids down there that  
18           enjoyed hunting.

19                    If you do away with the dog hunting  
20           period, you're going to lose a lot of  
21           revenue, license and everything else.  
22           Everybody's going to quit hunting. And  
23           all these young kids, what are they

1 going to do in between time? Nothing.

2 You take a young kid out there and  
3 you put him in a dog stand. He'll enjoy  
4 it. You take him out there in the  
5 shooting house and they don't want it.  
6 They want to hear them dogs run every  
7 day.

8 You know, we're all human beings.  
9 We all got to get along somehow and  
10 someway. And, Commissioner, I hope you  
11 don't extend the season. I hope you're  
12 keeping it like it was. And I hope that  
13 y'all don't do away with dog hunting.  
14 Thank you very much.

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Ward.

16 All right. That concludes our public  
17 hearing.

18 The next order of business is the  
19 Advisory Board district reports. I'll call  
20 on District 1 first, Dr. Bob Shipp.

21 DR. SHIPP: Thank you. Along the coast there  
22 are two principal issues somewhat  
23 related, the residual impacts of the oil

1 spill and seafood safety.

2 There are still some spotty  
3 occurrence of oil along Alabama beaches,  
4 but these seem to be less and less  
5 frequent and of minimal consequence.  
6 Tourism has essentially returned to  
7 normal, and there are numerous  
8 promotional initiatives --

9 (Brief interruption.)

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Someone hand Dr. Shipp  
11 their microphone, please.

12 Thank you. Is that working?

13 DR. SHIPP: -- and numerous promotional  
14 initiatives to enhance tourism and  
15 related businesses along the coast.

16 Seafood safety continues to receive  
17 attention. Fishes with lesions have  
18 continued to be reported in the media  
19 along with inference that these are  
20 unsafe to consume. We conducted a  
21 series of research cruises last year  
22 principally funded by Marine Resources  
23 Division and with personnel from that

1           division. These were focused on  
2           so-called hot areas where lesioned red  
3           snapper had been reported.

4           We collected more than 3,000 snapper  
5           and numerous other targeted reef  
6           species, and only two showed lesions.  
7           These were sent to Auburn and determined  
8           to be of normal occurrence.  
9           Additionally, the FDA conducted analysis  
10          on ten fish and reported no unusual  
11          incidences of disease.

12          In summary, our seafood is safe, and  
13          my personal belief is a lot of these  
14          reports of lesions are just trying to  
15          lay the groundwork for lawsuits. But I  
16          can personally guarantee you that our  
17          seafood is safe.

18          Research and development funds  
19          supported by BP are becoming available  
20          through a variety of sources, including  
21          500 million over ten years in funding  
22          from the National Resource Damage  
23          Assessment Process. Penalties from

1 fines resulting from violation of the  
2 Clean Water Act for restoration funding  
3 have yet to be determined.

4 And, now, to address Susan's  
5 comments, I have bad news. The Gulf of  
6 Mexico Fishery Management Council met  
7 this week in Mobile to determine the  
8 seasons for red snapper, amberjack, and  
9 gray triggerfish. And while the final  
10 decisions won't be made until April, it  
11 doesn't look good. It looks like all  
12 three of those may be closed before  
13 rodeo. Unfortunately, that's a federal  
14 issue, and we don't have any  
15 jurisdiction for that.

16 My personal belief, again, is that  
17 the models are about three or four years  
18 behind. We have plenty of red snapper.  
19 We probably have enough amberjack. But  
20 at the April meeting I'm not too  
21 optimistic about the outcome.

22 Plans for 2012: The effort to  
23 ensure seafood safety and promote its

1 acceptance will continue, including an  
2 ongoing initiative aimed at that end.  
3 With funding from NOAA and the  
4 department, we will continue research  
5 cruises to further verify the health of  
6 our fishery resources as well as  
7 contribute vital data to the National  
8 Marine Fishery Service to improve the  
9 stock assessments of our key species,  
10 especially red snapper, amberjack, and  
11 gray triggerfish. Between five and  
12 eight cruises are planned during 2012,  
13 and all board members and ADCNR  
14 personnel are invited to take part in  
15 it. And I think the Commissioner and  
16 assistant commissioner have taken part  
17 in the past.

18 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Dr. Shipp, I had a call  
20 that they were concerned that the bull  
21 redfish fishing in the last couple of  
22 years has degenerated on the Dixie Bar.  
23 Can you comment on that?

1 DR. SHIPP: That's not my observation. There  
2 have been -- there have been a lot of  
3 reds taken. Most of the "for hire" guys  
4 stop there, and they've had pretty good  
5 success. And there have been a lot of  
6 big schools on the beach. Some of the  
7 spawning aggregation show up in August  
8 and September. And I think the red drum  
9 or redfish population is in good shape.

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thanks. Very good.

11 Mr. Hatley, District 1.

12 MR. HATLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13 I don't know where Don Knight went,  
14 but I'd like to commend him and his  
15 group. This is the first time,  
16 Mr. Chairman, in 15 years since I've  
17 been on this board that in my district I  
18 have not received one complaint about  
19 dog deer hunting. And I think that says  
20 a lot for the people who are sitting in  
21 this room and, also, for the Dog Hunters  
22 Association.

23 Over the past several months I have

1 met with hunting clubs and/or groups  
2 from Chilton County all the way to  
3 Mobile County and discussed harvest,  
4 management, rut, hog hunting, almost  
5 every aspect of hunting that we have in  
6 the state of Alabama. And I've gotten  
7 some outstanding rapport established, I  
8 think, and, also, have gotten some good  
9 and vital information that can help our  
10 department as well as this board.

11 I have one situation I would like to  
12 bring to everyone's attention. I got a  
13 call down in Monroe County from a group  
14 of hunters and said they had a terrible  
15 problem. So I was not far from there at  
16 the time and went down. They had killed  
17 a beautiful nine-point buck. They  
18 wanted to have it mounted. Well, when  
19 they brought it back up to the clubhouse  
20 to skin it, they noticed that in his  
21 nasal cavities, in his mouth, and in his  
22 throat he was full of worms, worms that  
23 were about the size of this pencil and

1 varied in length.

2 Well, I had never seen anything like  
3 that. I immediately called Montgomery  
4 and talked to staff. And I had never  
5 heard of -- and, Gary -- if you would  
6 indulge me, Mr. Chairman. I would like  
7 for Gary to explain to this group -- and  
8 many of you may know, but I did not --  
9 what nasal bots are. It frightened the  
10 people in that area.

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Moody.

12 MS. MOODY: Yeah. I did not know you had had  
13 that incident. But nasal bots are  
14 fairly common. But the first time you  
15 see them when you cut in a deer,  
16 especially if you're fixing to dress one  
17 or something, it's not very appetizing.  
18 But it's simply fly larvae and then  
19 flies -- some species of flies will lay  
20 their legs on the nose and nasal area  
21 and the deer licks it in and they  
22 hatch. And that's where the larvae  
23 lives until it pupates and falls out.

1                   So it's not harmful to the deer  
2                   necessarily, not comfortable. The  
3                   meat's not bad. But it's certainly not  
4                   pleasant to look at.

5           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Moody.

6                   Mr. Hatley, are you done?

7           MR. HATLEY: I beg your pardon?

8           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Are you done?

9           MR. HATLEY: I've got a lot more, but I'll  
10                   quit.

11           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Continue, Mr. Hatley.

12           MR. HATLEY: We had two other problems, which  
13                   the Commissioner is aware of, not  
14                   related to hunting, but in our area, in  
15                   Gulf Shores and Orange Beach. I met  
16                   with the homeowners association at Ono  
17                   Island, and they were vitally concerned  
18                   about the proposed boat ramp. But after  
19                   talking with staff here at the  
20                   department, I was able to alleviate some  
21                   of their concerns. But they want to  
22                   keep it monitored because they're  
23                   vitally concerned about that boat ramp.

1                   And the other area was Mr. Egbert  
2                   and I had discussed the problems at the  
3                   state pier, and I assured him that we  
4                   were working on that problem, which we  
5                   have discussed earlier in the meeting.

6           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Hatley.

7           COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Hatley agreed to take  
8                   care of all the boat ramp issues down  
9                   there.

10          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's good. Let that be  
11                   duly noted in the minutes.

12          MR. HATLEY: I would like my salary increased  
13                   too.

14          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: District 2, Mr. Hartzog.  
15                   We know you have been busy.  
16                   Mr. Hartzog.

17          MR. HARTZOG: Well, if you look at the report,  
18                   the first of the issues that I had was  
19                   the problem of Coffee County and Elmore  
20                   County, and I think we've been well  
21                   versed on those.

22                   A couple of good things that have  
23                   been very popular in my district is the

1 opening of the Barbour County Management  
2 Area for extended hunting. It has been  
3 very, very popular. A lot of attendance  
4 and a lot of success there. If you talk  
5 to -- I had Don Abercrombie, who runs  
6 the restaurant in Clayton, Alabama,  
7 saying that, you know, it was a good  
8 economic push. And, you know, the main  
9 thing is when you open up these  
10 management areas only on certain  
11 weekends, when a guy works shift work  
12 and can't get off that weekend, but by  
13 extending it, it has been very, very  
14 popular.

15 The other thing that still comes  
16 back to me every time I talk to a deer  
17 hunter is the popularity of Barbour  
18 County having the antler restriction.  
19 The gentleman that was talking about the  
20 button bucks and all, Barbour County,  
21 with having the antler restriction, is a  
22 plus on that.

23 And the last thing on my report is,

1           if you remember, I think about two  
2           meetings ago Joe Young reported the --  
3           what he perceived as problems with  
4           lesions in the bass population in Lake  
5           Eufaula. Both Georgia and Alabama have  
6           been working on doing some studies.  
7           And, in fact, they had an open seminar  
8           at the Chamber of Commerce there in  
9           Eufaula about -- I think about a month  
10          and a half ago. Had about 150 people  
11          attend. Both the Georgia biologists as  
12          well as the Alabama biologists reported  
13          on some of the things they're looking at  
14          to improve the fisheries there on  
15          Eufaula. So thank you.

16       CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Hartzog.

17                 District 3, Grant Lynch, is not  
18                 present today.

19                 District 4, Austin Ainsworth.

20       MR. AINSWORTH: Thank you, Commissioner.

21                 I've had a lot of positive reports  
22                 on the three-buck limit. People seem to  
23                 be taking more mature, bigger -- bigger

1 deer. And the only negative I've seen,  
2 that people want to see a way -- a  
3 better way to enforce it. And I think  
4 that's something we might need to look  
5 in to.

6 And on the fishing side of things,  
7 in October on Lake Guntersville, Paul  
8 Elias is a professional fisherman. He  
9 won the FLW Tour with a innovative new  
10 lure called the Alabama rig. And it's  
11 been great for the local tackle stores.  
12 They've been applauding it. They're  
13 selling them off the shelves as quick as  
14 they get them. And I just want to  
15 applaud the man that invented that.  
16 It's great to see a fishing lure that  
17 gets people excited about fishing and  
18 get them out on the lake. And thank  
19 you.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Ainsworth.

21 District 5. Mr. Jones, I understand  
22 you're going to speak for Dr. Strickland  
23 today. Y'all have combined. Or,

1           Dr. Strickland, you're going to speak  
2           also?

3           DR. STRICKLAND: Yeah. I've got a couple of  
4           things to talk about.

5           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Mr. Jones  
6           first.

7           MR. JONES: Thank you. Appreciate that.

8                     First of all, I apologize for my  
9           appearance today with my discoloration  
10          of my face. There are two primary  
11          theories going around about exactly what  
12          happened. Both theories involves a  
13          piece of wood. One theory involves a  
14          four-wheeler. The other involves my  
15          wife. So I'll leave it to  
16          Dr. Strickland when he gets his turn to  
17          answer exactly what happened.

18          DR. STRICKLAND: He had a brow lift.

19          MR. JONES: Really, Mr. Sapp figured it out.  
20                     He quit talking and I didn't, so -- a  
21                     moment ago.

22                     But in District 5 we've had a good  
23                     year. It's been a less than normal year

1 from an activities standpoint. So I  
2 think things are going very positive  
3 there.

4 We have -- in Huntsville, Alabama,  
5 we have the 30,000-acre federally-owned  
6 Redstone Arsenal. Redstone Arsenal,  
7 being federally owned, consent --  
8 basically they have to follow the  
9 Alabama template for rules, but they can  
10 basically be more restrictive on what  
11 their hunting rules are.

12 We had some user groups out there  
13 that had had some problems and asked me  
14 to -- and I've helped field some calls  
15 and worked with District 1 Department of  
16 Conservation officers to help resolve  
17 the issue. And it was easily resolved  
18 once the misunderstandings were done.

19 Duck hunting throughout the region  
20 was good but not great as expected or as  
21 hoped it would have been. The eastern  
22 part of the state faired the best.

23 Gadwalls were in abundance.

1           Unfortunately, mallards never seemed to  
2           get here this particular year.

3           Spoke with several individuals for  
4           different perspectives. Spoke with  
5           people on February -- extending deer  
6           season into February. Spoke to people  
7           on the feeding and baiting issue, a  
8           tagging system as well.

9           Spoke with enforcement officers.  
10          Generally arrests were down. And  
11          primarily the arrests were for hunting  
12          over bait or for hunting without  
13          permission. I did have the officers --  
14          and several officers actually said the  
15          higher fines on the hunting without  
16          permission seemed to help greatly. So  
17          that has gone into effect.

18          And, unfortunately, we did have a  
19          hunting-related fatality in Jackson  
20          County this year. So that was -- we  
21          were saddened by that.

22          Still a lot of comments, people --  
23          positive comments for Archery in the

1 Schools. And that's a great program.  
2 You guys do a great job of running that,  
3 and that's introducing a lot of kids to  
4 the hunting sports.

5 But that's my report, Mr. Chairman.

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

7 Dr. Strickland.

8 DR. STRICKLAND: Yeah. I'll just -- Ray, that  
9 was an excellent report, very concise  
10 and to the point. And I'm not going to,  
11 you know, basically hash out some of the  
12 points that you brought out. But there  
13 are a couple of things that I would just  
14 like to comment on.

15 One is our deer season. Like most  
16 of the state of Alabama, you know, we  
17 had an unusually warm season, abundant  
18 acorn crop, and the rut just wasn't  
19 as -- I'm not going to say maybe as  
20 active, but most of the rutting activity  
21 ended up taking place at night. So,  
22 therefore, it looks as though the buck  
23 harvest rate in Congressional District 5

1           was not as high as it has been in  
2           previous years.

3           But the deer that were taken were  
4           excellent deer. I got a chance to stop  
5           by and see several of the deer that were  
6           taken. You know, in Alabama we really  
7           have excellent deer. We're in really,  
8           really good shape. And one of the  
9           reasons we're in such good shape is just  
10          there's so much feed and mast crop that  
11          was available.

12          Myself, I actually harvested a nice  
13          buck in early January with my bow and  
14          arrow, one of the largest bucks I've  
15          seen. It was a nine-pointer, probably  
16          132 inches. One of the best bucks that  
17          I've taken in Alabama. So I was pretty  
18          proud of that.

19          One of the things, too, I would just  
20          like to emphasize is that -- and Rusty  
21          touched on that. You know, our  
22          Conservation Department has really done  
23          an outstanding job in our part of the

1 state. You know, I can -- I can  
2 remember four or five years ago we  
3 talked about four to 500 citations that  
4 were issued for game violations. That  
5 has been cut down to less than 200, and  
6 the night hunting has gone away. And,  
7 Gary, that's really a testimonial to the  
8 excellent field work that your staff has  
9 done in that part of the state. They've  
10 done really an outstanding job. And  
11 that just happens to be the home of Joe  
12 Lindsey. Joe is -- he's -- you know,  
13 all the guys have really done an  
14 outstanding job.

15 I have gotten several reports from  
16 sportsmen in our area. There's still a  
17 lot of talk about a tag system. And I  
18 don't know where we are with the tag  
19 system. But, you know, even a sportsman  
20 and even some of the conservation  
21 officers feel that that's what it will  
22 take to really, you know, get the most  
23 benefit out of our buck harvest limit.

1           Also, supplement feeding. I've had  
2 a lot of discussion with hunters around  
3 the supplement feeding. There are a lot  
4 of hunters out there that are really  
5 interested in seeing that implemented,  
6 some that weren't. But there's probably  
7 more of an interest for supplement  
8 feeding.

9           And, again, I've had several hunters  
10 to call, particularly small game  
11 hunters, about the extension of the deer  
12 season. And, you know, we have a lot of  
13 small game hunters, rabbit hunters and  
14 squirrel hunters, in that part, and they  
15 really do not want to lose the ability  
16 to hunt small game in the month of  
17 February. And as we well know -- and it  
18 was emphasized earlier -- no one is  
19 going to let the squirrel and the rabbit  
20 hunters into the field until after the  
21 deer season closes.

22           But that's -- Mr. Chairman, that's  
23 pretty much -- it's been overall pretty

1           quiet. And we've had, you know, a  
2           pretty successful hunting season in the  
3           last -- 2011-2012.

4           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good.

5                     The next district, District 6.

6           Mr. Joey Dobbs.

7           MR. DOBBS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8                     In the 6th District, we're small, so  
9           I end up with a large population that  
10          operates and hunts and travels to  
11          different parts of the state. So I get  
12          hit with some of the things that our  
13          other members have talked about.

14                    We received a lot of calls about the  
15          success of the three-buck rule and the  
16          antler restrictions from many  
17          individuals and hunting clubs. They --  
18          they killed larger and better deer. A  
19          lot of -- a lot of clubs and people  
20          experienced an earlier, albeit milder,  
21          rut. As Dr. Strickland said, it  
22          probably was at night. But mid December  
23          was when -- for about two weeks that --

1 the reports that I've gotten. More --  
2 numerous bucks because of the programs  
3 have gotten a lot of outdoors men  
4 excited about the prospects of the  
5 quality deer management programs that  
6 the state -- that our biologists and the  
7 staff is doing a great job with.

8 A lot of the residents of our  
9 district enjoy saltwater angling. And  
10 my hopes were dashed a few minutes ago,  
11 but they were counting on a longer  
12 season, more liberal creel limits for  
13 red snapper and amberjack. But it  
14 sounds like from Dr. Shipp that that's  
15 not going to be the case. And I'll  
16 carry that news home.

17 They're concerned always about the  
18 seafood industry as a result of the oil  
19 spill, and I've advised them to  
20 absolutely buy Alabama, that everything  
21 is safe, just as Dr. Shipp has stated.

22 I have received some complaints from  
23 6th District residents that hunt in

1 different parts of the state about dog  
2 hunting, and most of that was from dog  
3 hunting that was done once the dog  
4 season was concluded. And I've offered  
5 those folks that just common sense and  
6 sound judgment prevail and report these  
7 incidents to your local authorities and  
8 continue to do that.

9 Also, I've had some concerns from  
10 some members of the district that --  
11 about the boats -- derelict boats in and  
12 around the coastal waters of Alabama.  
13 And I've let them know that the  
14 Department of Conservation and State  
15 Lands have a program and they're  
16 pursuing legal remedies to help get  
17 these boats removed that are nuisances  
18 and hazards to navigation.

19 As Dr. Strickland said, there's a  
20 lot of debate about supplemental feeding  
21 and extending the deer season. One of  
22 the suggestions -- or several  
23 suggestions that I have received would

1           be to allow the supplemental feeding,  
2           license it and charge a fee for the  
3           privilege or increase the fines for the  
4           violations. I've referred all these  
5           folks on to the two reports that are on  
6           line so that they can review those and  
7           gain further information.

8           As well, an ask for carcass tags for  
9           deer and turkey that could be purchased  
10          for a nominal fee to allow the  
11          biologists to collect valuable  
12          information as to the population of two  
13          of the most popular and important game  
14          species in our state. The issue fee or  
15          research fee or whatever Gary and staff  
16          decide or work this out to be would  
17          go -- would be specific to this  
18          research. And we're going to need some  
19          help to find a palatable system that's  
20          user friendly that everybody can take  
21          advantage of and be a part of.

22          But everybody I've talked to is  
23          thrilled with the way that things are

1           going and the job that our Department of  
2           Conservation and Natural Resources  
3           Marine Resources Division is doing, and  
4           I'm very proud of it too.

5           Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Dobbs.

7           District 7 is currently open. There  
8           were two very lengthy reports. After a  
9           long conversation with the Commissioner  
10          and because of the current dog  
11          hunting/landowner problems that have  
12          been talked about in Greene County and  
13          the conversation with Commissioner Guy,  
14          it has been decided that those reports  
15          on District 7 will not be read today and  
16          they will be turned over to the new  
17          District 7 member so that he may revisit  
18          those issues and present them at the  
19          proper time.

20          So that concludes the district  
21          reports.

22          The next order of business is new  
23          business. I'll start with Wildlife and

1           Freshwater Fisheries.

2           Mr. Harders.

3       MR. HARDERS: Mr. Chairman, Board Members, in  
4           your packet you have the Wildlife and  
5           Freshwater Fisheries Division  
6           recommendations for seasons and bag  
7           limits of the 2012-2013 season. Changes  
8           are highlighted in yellow. And you  
9           should have some updated sheets to put  
10          in your packet. Date changes to the  
11          calendar are not highlighted.

12           The proposed changes include dove  
13          season dates. Those will be -- our  
14          recommendation was to change them,  
15          depending on the zone, either earlier or  
16          later. Remove the bag limit on raccoon  
17          on private owned and leased lands.  
18          Extend the trapping season.

19           Change the legal arms for selected  
20          small game. Right now the way it reads  
21          is .22 caliber, and this would allow  
22          rimfire, which is -- let you use a  
23          popular .17 caliber rimfire.

1           Reduce the creel limit on smallmouth  
2 bass. Reduce the creel limit on white  
3 bass, yellow bass, saltwater striped,  
4 and hybrids. We clarified the releasing  
5 of caught fish by tournament sponsors.

6           The inclusion of Town Creek and size  
7 limit in Gunterville Reservoir.

8 Amended the saltwater striped bass creel  
9 and fishing methods on Lake Martin and  
10 Lewis Smith Reservoirs.

11           Changed the creel limit on  
12 smallmouth bass on Pickwick, Wheeler,  
13 and Wilson Reservoirs. Changed the  
14 saltwater striped bass creel limit on  
15 Thurlow, Yates, and Inland Reservoir.  
16 And clarified shoal bass restriction for  
17 the Chattahoochee River.

18           If you have any question about  
19 those, I'd be glad to answer them now.

20           One other thing we have in your  
21 packet is our recommendation for the  
22 CPI, consumer price index, increase for  
23 license prices. As you know, when the

1 legislature passed the last license  
2 increase, there's a provision that  
3 allows us to look at the consumer price  
4 index every year and then make a  
5 recommendation based on that increase,  
6 if there is one, for license price  
7 increases.

8 After looking at the CPI change this  
9 year, the recommendation is roughly a  
10 3.53 percent increase in licenses. And  
11 what that means is, for example, the  
12 resident all game hunting license would  
13 go up 80 cents, the annual freshwater  
14 fishing license would go up 35 cents.

15 But the process for this is for us  
16 to recommend it through the  
17 Commissioner. With his approval, we  
18 provide it to board members. You  
19 approve that at the next meeting. Then  
20 we move it on to the legislative review  
21 committee. If they're in favor of this,  
22 it will go in effect this next license  
23 year. If you remember, last year was

1           the first time we had a consumer price  
2           index, and the license increased a few  
3           pennies.

4           If you have any questions concerning  
5           that, I'd be happy to answer them.

6           That's basically the new business unless  
7           someone has questions.

8           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We're going to revisit old  
9           business. I accidentally went to new  
10          instead of old. So we will revisit old  
11          in a minute, but we're going to stay at  
12          new right now.

13          MR. HARDERS: Okay.

14          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All right. The rest of  
15          game and fish. I believe there's one  
16          more in there, Commissioner. Wasn't  
17          there some other new business?

18          COMMISSIONER GUY: Marine Resources.

19          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes. Marine Resources.  
20          Chris.

21          MR. BLANKENSHIP: Thank you. In your packets  
22          there were the regulations that we had  
23          proposed. I'll just cover some of the

1 highlights on those and answer any  
2 questions that you have.

3 On the shrimping regulation, we  
4 wanted to add a provision to allow  
5 persons to take up to five gallons of  
6 shrimp from open waters when using a  
7 cast net. Currently there's no  
8 provision for them to take shrimp with a  
9 cast net -- or no limits. So this would  
10 allow them to do that up to five  
11 gallons. To better define the closure  
12 line in the Blakely River Channel. To  
13 remove the closed area within one-half  
14 mile of the shoreline in Mobile Bay from  
15 Mayday Pier to Point Clear. To better  
16 define the closure line in Perdido  
17 Pass. And to change the maximum size of  
18 the trawl allowed for bait shrimping to  
19 maintain consistency with the Live Bait  
20 legislation that was passed in the last  
21 session. This just catches the  
22 regulation up with the legislation that  
23 was passed.

1           In the oystering regulation, we want  
2           to better define the prohibition on  
3           taking or transporting oysters between  
4           sunset and sunrise and taking oysters at  
5           night. To better define what the oyster  
6           harvesters must do if they take the  
7           oysters to a shop other than the one  
8           that they declared to us that they were  
9           going to sell the oysters through our  
10          management station. And to remove the  
11          designation of harvest areas in the  
12          regulation. We define the harvest areas  
13          by opening and closing orders. So we  
14          didn't really need it in the  
15          regulation.

16          On the use of nets and harvest of  
17          mullet, there's no substantial changes  
18          to this regulation. But as you all  
19          know, we have made substantial changes  
20          to this regulation over the last several  
21          years, and in the process of doing that,  
22          some of the numbering had gotten off in  
23          the regulation. And so this is really

1 just to correct some grammatical and  
2 typographical errors in the regulation.

3 The one thing that we did do in  
4 there, to better define the closure line  
5 at Theodore Industrial Canal. It  
6 doesn't change the line at all. We just  
7 put a GPS coordinate there to go along  
8 with the physical description to make  
9 sure it was plain to the public and the  
10 fishermen.

11 The oyster season and sack limit  
12 regulation, we want to change the  
13 harvest times to exclude harvest on  
14 Saturdays during October, November, and  
15 December, and to reduce the limit of  
16 oysters from 16 sacks per boat per day  
17 to 12 sacks per boat per day. And those  
18 were both requests from the industry and  
19 from the processors. We have a finite  
20 number of oysters that are available for  
21 harvest, and they would rather have more  
22 days that the oysters could be harvested  
23 and sold through the processing shops to

1           continue to have that product on the  
2           market. That was a request from the  
3           industry.

4           And the saltwater fish creel, bag,  
5           and possession limit. We are proposing  
6           to add a 12-inch fork length limit on  
7           sheepshead and a recreational creel  
8           limit of 10 inches. To increase the  
9           creel limit for red grouper to four fish  
10          to be consistent with the federal  
11          regulations. That's an increase from  
12          two to four fish. And to add the  
13          sandbar shark as a prohibited species to  
14          be consistent with federal regulations  
15          unless the fisherman has a federal  
16          research permit for sandbar sharks.

17          On the crab regulation, you have an  
18          updated proposed crab regulation that  
19          was provided to you today. After  
20          meeting with the commercial fishermen,  
21          the crabbers and some of the  
22          organizations, they had some concerns  
23          about some things that we proposed. And

1           so we have agreed to work with them over  
2           the next year to try and address their  
3           concerns with our proposed regulations  
4           and see if we can accomplish the same  
5           thing without having additional  
6           regulations on the crabbers.

7           But the things that we still  
8           included in the revoked -- in the  
9           revised proposed regulation is to close  
10          Bill's Bayou to the use of crab traps to  
11          protect threatened diamondback  
12          terrapins. To better define the closure  
13          line at the Blakely River Channel. And  
14          to better define the required marking of  
15          crab traps and crab harvest vessels.  
16          Most of those are just clarifications so  
17          that it's clear for the public and for  
18          the fishermen.

19          And then in the open season/area for  
20          the taking of live saltwater bait, Point  
21          Clear area, the Coast Guard came in and  
22          renumbered the channel that goes into  
23          the Grand Hotel thereby making our

1 regulation obsolete. So we just --  
2 we're just changing the regulation to  
3 better define the area with the new  
4 waterway markers that are there.  
5 There's no real substantial change. It  
6 just makes -- makes it clear where the  
7 closure line is.

8 And I'll be glad to answer any  
9 questions. Or if you read that and have  
10 any questions over the next month, feel  
11 free to -- thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Chris. Are  
13 there any questions from the board?

14 (No response.)

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other new business?

16 Dr. Shipp.

17 DR. SHIPP: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm  
18 going to introduce a motion at the next  
19 meeting, but I want to lay it out at  
20 this meeting so there can be  
21 discussion.

22 The one -- the first motion is to  
23 have Carolina pompano be declared a

1           gamefish. I was glad to hear about the  
2           increase in recreational licenses. This  
3           will certainly help that if we make this  
4           a gamefish.

5           This is the one species that is a  
6           prime species that can be caught in the  
7           surf. It's one of the main targets for  
8           our tourist industry. It's less than  
9           one-half of one percent of the  
10          commercial harvest. And it's one of the  
11          areas where the greatest amount of  
12          friction between the gillnet industry  
13          and the tourist industry has occurred.  
14          Since it's such a small component of the  
15          commercial harvest, this would eliminate  
16          a lot of that friction. So I plan to  
17          introduce that motion at the next  
18          meeting.

19          The other motion is to increase the  
20          minimum legal size of triple tail, which  
21          is commonly known as black fish, to be  
22          increased from 16 inches total length to  
23          18 inches total length. This species

1           recently has become very popular, and by  
2           increasing it to 18 inches, we will  
3           guarantee that they will at least  
4           survive through one spawning season.

5           So those are the two motions I plan  
6           to introduce at the next meeting.

7           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Dr. Shipp. Any  
8           other new business?

9           Mr. Hartzog.

10          MR. HARTZOG: Two or three different things.

11           I want to remind everybody that  
12           Forever Wild comes up for a vote in  
13           November on the general ballot,  
14           something that we really need to really,  
15           really support because of the importance  
16           of providing additional hunting lands  
17           for our people. So be sure to do that.

18           The second thing, I'd like -- Gary,  
19           if you will look at the possibility of  
20           the Upper Delta, trying to add  
21           additional days for the dog hunters  
22           during the dry season. That Upper Delta  
23           is -- and I don't know whether that

1 would be presented at the next meeting.

2 I'll probably be unpopular leaving  
3 here, but I'm going to probably propose  
4 at the next meeting that upper Coffee  
5 County be put on a permit system and  
6 that -- I will get with enforcement and  
7 work out -- I will probably recommend  
8 that we put part of Elmore County on a  
9 permit system.

10 I know we've heard a lot of  
11 arguments about the pros and cons of dog  
12 hunting. I love dog hunting. But the  
13 problem is, is when you've got a problem  
14 and you know you've got a problem. And  
15 I think Don Knight will testify and  
16 several others. When I was getting so  
17 many complaints, I called them and I  
18 said get with those clubs and ask them  
19 to please behave, and yet it seemed like  
20 the notch was turned up. I got twice as  
21 many complaints.

22 And I know the comments have been  
23 here it's just with Hit and Miss Hunting

1 Club. But, I mean, I've gotten -- I've  
2 got a letter right here that I received  
3 yesterday that's not Hit and Miss. I  
4 mean, I've had a dozen phone calls this  
5 last week that was not Hit and Miss.  
6 So, I mean, we've got a problem.

7 And I know we had a trespass issue,  
8 and it was said, well, the guy's got a  
9 bad knee. Well, when you know you got a  
10 problem with a club, you don't go ahead  
11 and go through an open gate when you  
12 know you've got a problem with that club  
13 and just ignore that that's  
14 trespassing.

15 So it -- I asked the question does  
16 the permit system work. And we can ask  
17 some gentlemen here from Geneva County  
18 if the permit system works. It works.  
19 And we're not trying to restrict you  
20 from hunting, but we're just trying to  
21 make you better behaved and try to  
22 adhere to the rules. And that's the  
23 only thing we ask.

1                   And so at the next meeting those two  
2                   areas I will probably propose that those  
3                   areas be put under a permit system.

4           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other new business?

5                   Dr. Strickland.

6           DR. STRICKLAND: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would  
7                   like to introduce a motion for approval  
8                   of all Department of Conservation and  
9                   Natural Resource regulations since the  
10                  last approval.

11          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. This is a  
12                  housekeeping regulation that doesn't  
13                  apply to the prior minutes.

14                  Dr. Strickland, if you could read  
15                  the motion one more time.

16          DR. STRICKLAND: A motion for approval of all  
17                  Department of Conservation and Natural  
18                  Resource regulations since the last  
19                  approval.

20          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Is there a second?

21          MR. JONES: Second.

22          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I have a second.

23                  Any discussion?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Dr. Strickland, read it  
3 one more time, please, sir.

4 DR. STRICKLAND: A motion for approval of all  
5 Department of Conservation and Natural  
6 Resource regulations since the last  
7 approval.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All those in favor raise  
9 your hand.

10 (All board members raise hand.)

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let the record show  
14 unanimous.

15 Any other new business?

16 Mr. Jones.

17 MR. JONES: Thank you. Thank you,  
18 Mr. Chairman.

19 Youth hunting in our state is  
20 wonderful, and our state several years  
21 ago adopted -- very wisely adopted  
22 special youth hunting days for various  
23 different species that we hunt. I

1 really think, though, that we need to  
2 recognize, in addition to our youth,  
3 another fast-growing segment of our  
4 hunting population, and that is you  
5 ladies. I want to work over the next --  
6 between now and the next meeting to work  
7 with the department and with the  
8 Commissioner to look at the possibility  
9 of adding a special day or special days  
10 for you ladies out there to help -- you  
11 know, you guys have your own -- you have  
12 your own camouflage now. So that's a  
13 neat thing with the Women and Outdoors  
14 programs that are going on. And there  
15 is nowhere that I know of in the United  
16 States where women have a special date  
17 like this, and I think Alabama needs to  
18 be in the lead, not following, on that  
19 issue.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Any other new  
21 business?

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. With that, we'll go

1 back to old business. I will start with  
2 the items that we show open from the  
3 last meeting.

4 At the last meeting we talked about  
5 fish with sores. Someone was going to  
6 inspect the catches from the FLW  
7 tournaments. Stan or David Hayden, do  
8 y'all have any comments on that?

9 MR. COOK: We did have our district biologist  
10 look into that. It turned out to be --  
11 I hate to say routine or average type of  
12 report, but it -- when you have a fish  
13 population that is going through some  
14 sort of cyclic event where you have  
15 overcrowdedness occurring, it puts more  
16 stress on the population. Therefore,  
17 those common illnesses tend to show up  
18 more prevalent in the population. And  
19 that's what that was. But by  
20 addressing -- trying to address the  
21 population issue, we'll also address the  
22 disease or parasite issue that we're  
23 receiving.

1           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Excellent. Very good.

2                     Thank you, Mr. Cook.

3                     The second was the Bankhead Forest  
4                     WMA, a problem with hogs, restrictive  
5                     rules, regulations for preventing  
6                     resolution. Mr. Moody was planning to  
7                     meet with the new forest supervisor  
8                     arriving June 2011 to get ready to  
9                     discuss rules and regs. Any follow-up,  
10                    Mr. Moody?

11           MR. MOODY: We did meet with the forest  
12                    supervisor, and we have met with him  
13                    several times since. We've had multiple  
14                    conversations about this.

15                    The issue was about getting access  
16                    with traps into the wilderness area.  
17                    It's not about the areas outside of the  
18                    wilderness area. It's the areas within  
19                    the wilderness area. And they're pretty  
20                    adamant that their wildnerwildernesses  
21                    not allow any kind of mechanized device  
22                    period within these areas, fire or  
23                    otherwise. It's all -- you go in --

1 walk in by hand. You do it by hand.  
2 And we have talked. And we're not  
3 through talking. And we will continue  
4 to do so. But there are some law issues  
5 in addition to what regulatory issues  
6 there are. So there is nothing really  
7 changed, but we do continue to discuss  
8 the issue with them.

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good.

10 Mr. Dobbs.

11 MR. DOBBS: Mr. Chairman.

12 Mr. Moody, did you ever get ahold of  
13 the congressional representatives for  
14 those districts and ask them to become  
15 involved to help that gentleman out who  
16 was so adamant about the destruction of  
17 the floor fauna, the trails and  
18 everything?

19 MR. MOODY: No, we have not. We've been  
20 working strictly with Forest Service  
21 personnel.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next issue open was a  
23 property line/safety issue that has been

1           discussed over the last two meetings.  
2           Commissioner Guy, I think you have some  
3           follow-up.

4           COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
5           Yeah. We brought this up last year. I  
6           know I've had about 20 phone calls about  
7           hunters hunting on someone else's  
8           property line.

9           I don't know about everybody else.  
10          One of the things I want to do by  
11          talking about this a little more is get  
12          some feedback on this particular issue.  
13          In my mind it's a safety issue.

14          This year we've had quite a few  
15          people who were shot. That's not  
16          necessarily just a property line issue.  
17          That is just a hunter safety issue that  
18          we all need to be more aware of what  
19          we're doing. But, certainly, when there  
20          are people hunting on property lines,  
21          the property owners on the other side,  
22          for instance, are very intimidated by  
23          the ability to walk around on their

1 property, whether they have hunter  
2 orange on or not.

3 I think we need to look at this  
4 issue. If we save one life, it's worth  
5 it. And we all need to be cognizant  
6 about the fact of whether we need to be  
7 hunting on a property line.

8 In that regard, I think we need to  
9 consider a minimum yardage off a  
10 property line unless -- which is an  
11 exception that I think anybody could  
12 live with -- you have permission from  
13 the adjoining landowner or lessee. If  
14 that adjoining landowner or lessee has  
15 no problem with you having a hunting  
16 stand within a particular distance -- I  
17 think the distance is something we need  
18 to look at, but probably as much as 50  
19 yards -- then I think that doesn't cause  
20 a problem. On the other hand, you know,  
21 if that landowner has a problem, you  
22 know, then we probably need to have a  
23 regulation that prevents you from doing

1           that.

2                   I think the issue here is hunter  
3           safety, and that's all it's about. And  
4           we need to be particularly aware about  
5           our children -- as not only ourselves,  
6           but our children, too, who might be  
7           within an area that's very close to a  
8           property line.

9                   So that goes back to a couple of  
10          different things, wearing hunter orange  
11          and making sure you know what you're  
12          shooting at. But that's my kind of  
13          report on that.

14                  Mr. Chairman, I think what we'll do  
15          is consider getting feedback from  
16          everyone on that and then possibly have  
17          a proposal to be in the form of a motion  
18          if the feedback is positive, or we can  
19          discuss it at the next meeting with a  
20          motion.

21          CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That would be great. And  
22                  I think the board -- to be aware, I  
23          believe there's already two instances of

1 something sort of like this. There is a  
2 limit from a house.

3 It's a hundred yards, is that  
4 correct, from a residence?

5 There is no shooting over property  
6 lines; isn't that correct?

7 There's something about property  
8 lines, I think. And then there's  
9 another issue of 50 yards off a public  
10 road; is that correct?

11 So these kind of issues are in  
12 effect already.

13 Mr. Hartzog.

14 MR. HARTZOG: Mr. Chairman, when you and I  
15 were talking the other day and that  
16 particular subject came up, we also --  
17 I've had several instances of major  
18 injuries from safety belts not being  
19 used in tree stands. So I would really  
20 love to see us look at adding some type  
21 of regulation to help protect the people  
22 from --

23 (Brief interruption.)

1 MR. HARTZOG: So we would like to include  
2 that, please, Gunter.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you could get that  
4 information to the Commissioner.

5 Mr. Hatley.

6 MR. HATLEY: If these things can be worked out  
7 before our next meeting, all those  
8 objections and proponents, including a  
9 motion, I certainly will be prepared to  
10 present that in the form of a motion at  
11 our next meeting.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That would be great.

13 Thank you, Mr. Hatley.

14 Okay. There was one other old  
15 business item, and I don't know if  
16 anything has been done or hasn't been  
17 done, Mr. Hayden, on setting dog deer  
18 days on WMAs for different days not yet  
19 addressed. Anything to follow up on  
20 that, Mr. Hayden?

21 MR. HAYDEN: Well, as you know, we did add  
22 additional days to the areas that we had  
23 dog hunting on last year. We'll take a

1           look at the request we had today and see  
2           if we might be able to do anything  
3           else.

4           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That would be great. It  
5           sounded like they were very well pleased  
6           with what you did last year.

7           MR. HAYDEN: Yes. We had a number of "thank  
8           yous" for adding days.

9           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good.

10                  Okay. Any other old business at  
11                  this time?

12                  Mr. Dobbs.

13           MR. DOBBS: I was just going to add that  
14           Ms. Morrow asked for an additional --  
15           for additional days on the wildlife  
16           management area, but she didn't define  
17           that management area or I didn't hear  
18           it.

19                  She said the Upper Delta, but she  
20                  said another one as well. Did I  
21                  misunderstand?

22           CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Ms. Morrow.

23           MS. MORROW: No, sir. I said to look at

1 opening another management area up for  
2 dog hunting.

3 MR. DOBBS: Right. As well as the Upper  
4 Delta?

5 MS. MORROW: Yes.

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Any other old  
7 business from the board?

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next order of  
10 business is the date and location of the  
11 next Advisory Board meeting. The date  
12 will be March 10th, 2012, and the  
13 location will be here again in  
14 Montgomery, Alabama.

15 Being there is no further business,  
16 this meeting stands adjourned.

17 (Meeting adjourned at  
18 approximately 12:40 p.m.)

19 \* \* \* \* \*

20 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

21 \* \* \* \* \*

22 STATE OF ALABAMA:

23 MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

1 I, Tracye Sadler Blackwell, Certified  
2 Court Reporter and Commissioner for the State of  
3 Alabama at Large, do hereby certify that I reported  
4 the foregoing proceedings of the Forever Wild Board  
5 Meeting on February 4, 2012.

6 The foregoing 215 computer-printed pages  
7 contain a true and correct transcript of the  
8 proceedings held.

9 I further certify that I am neither of  
10 kin nor of counsel to the parties to said cause nor  
11 in any manner interested in the results thereof.

12 This 5th day of March 2012.

13  
14  
15  
16 

---

Tracye Sadler Blackwell  
17 ACCR No. 294  
18 Expiration date: 9-30-2012  
19 Certified Court Reporter  
20 and Commissioner for the State  
21 of Alabama at Large  
22  
23